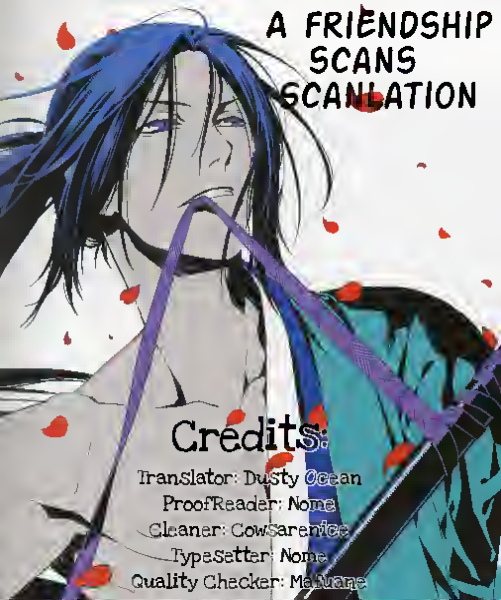
A FRIENDSHIP SCANS SCANLATION
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Translator: Dusty Ocean
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Quality Checker: Mahuane

PETITCOMI FLOWER COMICS

A SWALLOW FALLING INTO THE SEA

SHINOHARA CHIE

A SWALLOW FALLING INTO THE SEA

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'A SWALLOW FALLING INTO THE SEA

Chie Shinohara

A SWALLOW CROSSING THE SEA

"DON'T DO IT, TOUKO!!"
"YOU AREN'T CROSSING THE SEA ALONE!!"
"YOU HAVE ME!! TOUKO, STOP THIS FOOLISH-NESS!!"

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT
FOR GETTING IN MY WAY.
Wipe
TOUKO--!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER KAZUKI!

HAVE YOU HEARD!?
MINASE MASAKO HAS PASSED AWAY!
TV PACIFIC
REHEARSAL ROOM D
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WAS FOUND DEAD IN HER HOME. THE MEDIA'S IN A FRENZY OVER IT NOW.
YEAH.
MINASE... YOU MEAN THE SCRIPTWRITER MINASE-SENSEI!?
WELL ABOUT THAT. THE STORY'S THAT SHE WAS MURDERED
SHE DIED... BUT HOW!?
SHE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED ON A LIVE PROGRAM ON NKH* JUST THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY

NOW, SHIKI-SENSEI'S DEFINITELY GOING TO THE GET THE AWARD.. RIGHT!?
AH...
BUT
WELL, SHE REALLY WAS A CRANKY OLD LADY.
WHO IN THE WORLD!? WHAT FOR!?
HEY, HEY.
DON'T SAY SUCH IMPRUDENT THINGS
IF SHE WINS, THEN IT'LL BE OUR CHANNEL'S FIRST AWARD TOO!!
THAT'S TRUE!!
SHIKI-SENSEI!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WAS KILLED.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.
YEAH, I JUST HEARD ABOUT IT OVER THERE.
SENSEI!! MINASE-SENSEI WAS...
BUT WINNING THE JAPAN SCREENWRITER'S AWARD IS HUGE!!
BUT SENSEI!!
THIS MIGHT BE A BAD TIME TO SAY THIS,
WE'D REALLY LOVE FOR SEA SWALLOW TO GET THE AWARD FOR TV PACIFIC.
THIS YEAR IT WAS A ONE-ON-ONE BATTLE BETWEEN NKH'S BROAD-CAST,
MINASE MASAKO'S FLOWER OF SENGOKU, AND MORIMURA SHIKI'S SEA SWALLOW

BUT IT REALLY IS CLICHED...
ANY GIRL WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THAT LINE SAID TO HER.
"YOU'RE NOT ALONE. YOU HAVE ME."
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING
OF COURSE MS. SHIKI WILL GET THE AWARD
TH... THANKS, MAO-CHAN.
YOU'RE THE BEST SENSE!!!
TO GIVE THE VIEW-ERS WHAT THEY WANT?
NOTHING WRONG WITH CLICHES!!
ISN'T IT OUR JOB
RYOUSUKE.
BUT NOW I TAKE PLEASURE IN THEM.
...IT'S TRUE...
THOSE CHEESY LINES WERE EMBA-RRASSING AT FIRST

I'M SURE THE AWARD FOR BEST MALE LEADING ACTOR WILL GO TO YOU, SHIINA RYOU-SUKE!!
SHIINA-SAN
THE "KAZUKI" YOU PLAY IS SO WONDERFUL.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING FOR.
MAO-CHAN, THIS IS THE NEXT EPISODE'S SCRIPT. PLEASE HAND IT TO NISHIZAKI-SAN
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUICK. DID YOU STAY UP ALL NIGHT LAST NIGHT TOO!?
WE'LL BE STARTING REHEARSAL NOW!
...YES. I WAS HOLED UP IN MY APART-MENT THE WHOLE DAY.
SHIKI.

SMOOCH
I'LL BE SEEING YOU LATER THEN.
I CAN COME OVER TONIGHT RIGHT?
.....

SEEMS LIKE ALL THE T.V. STATIONS WERE DOING THE STORY ON MINASE MASAKO ALL DAY LONG TODAY.
THAT OLD LADY DID HAVE A LOT OF SERIES AFTER ALL.
AND STARTING NEXT WEEK I HEAR THEY'LL BE STATING RERUNS OF HER DRAMAS.
BUT DESPITE THAT, SHE'D NEVER WON THE AWARD FOR BEST SCRIPTWRITER.
I HEARD SHE'D BEEN GOING AROUND TO EACH STATION AKING ARRANGEMENTS TO GET IT FOR SURE THIS TIME.
IS THE SCRIPTWRITER'S AWARD THAT GREAT?

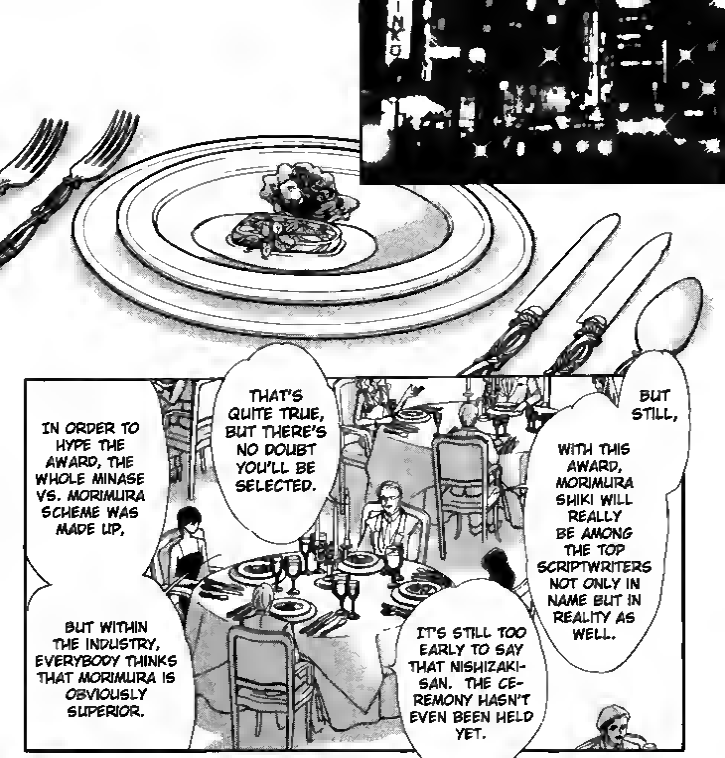
OH REALLY?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GREEDY PERSON.
HMM.
YOU DIDN'T SEEM THE TYPE TO HAVE AN ATTACHMENT TO THAT SORT OF THING.
WELL OF COURSE IT IS.
IT'S THE HIGHEST AWARD A SCRIPTWRITER CAN GET.
I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU, SHIKI.
FLIP
I'M GREEDY TOO SO I WANT TO HAVE YOU ALL FOR MYSELF.
AH...!

...JEEZE,
JUST HOW DO YOU WRITE THOSE CORNY ROMANCE STORIES WITH THAT
I'LL BE USING THAT LINE NEXT TIME.
EVER SINCE I STARTED GOING OUT WITH YOU, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY TROUBLE WITH CLICHED PICK-UP LINES, SO I'LL HAVE TO THANK YOU.
IT'S MY JOB.
SO HEY,
I'M GOING OUT WITH YOU IN ORDER TO GET BETTER ROLES.
...HAVE YOU HEARD THAT RUMOR?
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
I HAVE.
SO IT'S TRUE?

YOU KNOW,
YOU DEBUTED WHEN YOU WERE STILL IN COLLEGE AND BECAME A POPULAR SCRIPT-WRITER RIGHT AWAY. NOW, EVERY STATION IS FIGHTING TO GET YOU.
AND THIS YEAR YOU'RE THE FAVORITE TO WIN THE SCREENWRITER'S AWARD.
EVEN I CAN SEE WHY THERE'S THAT RUMOR GOING AROUND.
COMPARED TO THAT, I'M THE SAME AGE, 28, BUT I'VE BEEN SPUTTERING IN A SMALL THEATER TROUPE AND THIS SEA SWALLOW IS MY ONLY BIG ROLE.
THEN I CAN BOAST ABOUT BEING THE ONE TO DISCOVER SHIINA RYOU-SUKE.
AND MORIMURA SHIKI'S STATUS WILL GO UP.
YOU KNOW, RYOUSUKE,
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR BIG BREAK IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.
THEN WITHIN 10 YEARS YOU'LL BE A STAR ON THE BIG SCREEN.
HUH?

.....WHAT IF I DON'T GET MY BREAK?
CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK
OF COURSE, I'LL DENY THAT I EVER WENT OUT WITH YOU.
...I SEE.
...I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SEE ME.
BUT I'M A SELFISH AND ARROGANT WOMAN.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T BENEFIT ME.
FOR THAT PURPOSE, I'LL DO ANYTHING.
I WON'T LET ANYONE GET IN THE WAY OF WHAT I WANT.
SHIKI...?

.....THAT TIME
I FINALLY MANAGED TO OPEN A PATH AFTER ALL, I WON'T LET ANYONE GET IN MY WAY!!
I DIDN'T LEAVE ANY EVIDENCE, I'M SURE I DIDN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES.
NO ONE WILL EVER FIND OUT.
BY THE WAY RYOUSUKE, TOMORROW NIGHT,
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WE'RE HAVING DINNER WITH THE PRODUCER, NISHIZAKI-SAN?
YOU'RE SHOOTING ON LOCATION FROM EARLY IN THE MORNING TOMORROW,
SO GET TO SLEEP FIRST SO YOU'RE NOT LATE
AH... RIGHT...


IN ORDER TO HYPE THE AWARD, THE WHOLE MINASE VS. MORIMURA SCHEME WAS MADE UP,
BUT WITHIN THE INDUSTRY, EVERYBODY THINKS THAT MORIMURA IS OBVIOUSLY SUPERIOR.
THAT'S QUITE TRUE, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT YOU'LL BE SELECTED.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT NISHIZAKI-SAN. THE CEREMONY HASN'T EVEN BEEN HELD YET.
BUT STILL,
WITH THIS AWARD, MORIMURA SHIKI WILL REALLY BE AMONG THE TOP SCRIPTWRITERS NOT ONLY IN NAME BUT IN REALITY AS WELL.
I'D LIKE FOR YOU, SHIINA-KUN, TO KEEP YOUR SCHEDULE CLEAR AS WELL.
WELL TODAY, I CALLED YOU HERE TO TELL YOU THAT I'D LIKE TO EXTEND SEA SWALLOW.
I SEE, YOU'RE AS CAUTIOUS AS EVER.
...BUT,
IT'S JUST MOMENTUM, IT'S NOT AS IF I'VE WON FOR SURE.

I THOUGHT WE COULD CONGRATULATE HER AS WELL
YOU'VE TAKEN GREAT CARE OF HER, SHIKI, BUT SINCE HER MARRIAGE AND RETIREMENT ARE SET,
YES, I'VE BROUGHT MISS TAKAHASHI HERE TO PERSUADE YOU.
SHIKI-SENSEI, PLEASE SAY YOU'LL DO IT.
BUT STILL, I'D JUST LOVE TO SEE MORE OF SEA SWALLOW.
OH NO, PLEASE DON'T MIND ABOUT ME.
IT'S A PROVIDENCE FOR SCRIPTWRITERS TO BE TOLD TO EXTEND A SERIES.
THE PATH I OPENED.....
OF COURSE, I'D BE HONORED TO DO IT.
WELL, WELL,
IF IT ISN'T A GATHERING OF THE TV PACIFIC HITMAKERS.
OH REALLY! I'M GRATEFUL.

YOU'RE ONE OF THE PRODUCERS AT NKH, KATSUTA
YOU MUST BE OVERJOYED THAT SEA SWALLOW HAS SUCH HIGH RATINGS.
PLEASE LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU.
BUT REMEMBER THAT HIGH RATINGS DOESN'T EQUAL WINNING THE BIG AWARD.
SO PLEASE, WORK EVEN HARDER FROM NOW ON.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE.
WELL GOOD-BYE NOW.
JUST WHAT WAS THAT!!
HOW RUDE!!

BUT...
ISN'T KATSUTA-SAN ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL THAT SELECTS THE JAPAN SCRIPTWRITER'S AWARD?
HE IS INDEED,
BUT MOST OF THE PANEL ARE PUSHING FOR MISS SHIKI.
LET'S STOP WITH THIS BOTHERSOME TALK.
PLEASE, LET'S DRINK.
.....
GLOP
GLOP
GLOP
WELL, I DID BATTLE WITH KATSUTA-SAN OVER ACQUIRING MISS SHIKI HERE
I'M SURE IT MUST DISPLEASE HIM THAT SHE STARTED A DRAMA SERIES AT OUR PLACE.
SHIKI-SENSEI!! YOU REJECTED THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING STATION, NKH, TO COME TO OUR STATION!
---I PREFER THE COMMERCIAL BROADCASTS.

SHIKI-KUN.
I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A BIT
IS THAT ALRIGHT?
NO, AS YOU'RE AWARE, I'M WITH COMPANY.
DON'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH TO GET AWAY.
IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS THE PRODUCER FOR MINASE MASAKO, BUT I BELIEVE THAT YOUR ABILITIES ARE ABOVE HERS.
I'D LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU!

AS I'VE ALREADY STATED MANY TIMES,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO DO WHILE I'M DOING MY CURRENT JOB.
SO IF YOU'LL PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
!!
BAM
I THINK IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO LISTEN.

WHAT ARE YOU.....
THE ONE WHO KILLED MINASE MASAKO
WAS YOU. WASN'T IT.
MASAKO WAS IN YOUR WAY.

DO YOU MEAN THE SCRIPT-WRITER'S AWARD
I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF IT AS WELL, KATSUTA-SAN, THAT I HAD THE ADVANTAGE...
SORRY BUT I HAD NO NEED TO KILL MINASE MASAKO-SENSEI.
MASAKO WAS BLACKMAILING YOU.
OF COURSE I'M AWARE.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE THE WINNER.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY MASAKO TRIED TO FORCE YOU TO WITHDRAW FROM THE NOMINEES.
AM I RIGHT?

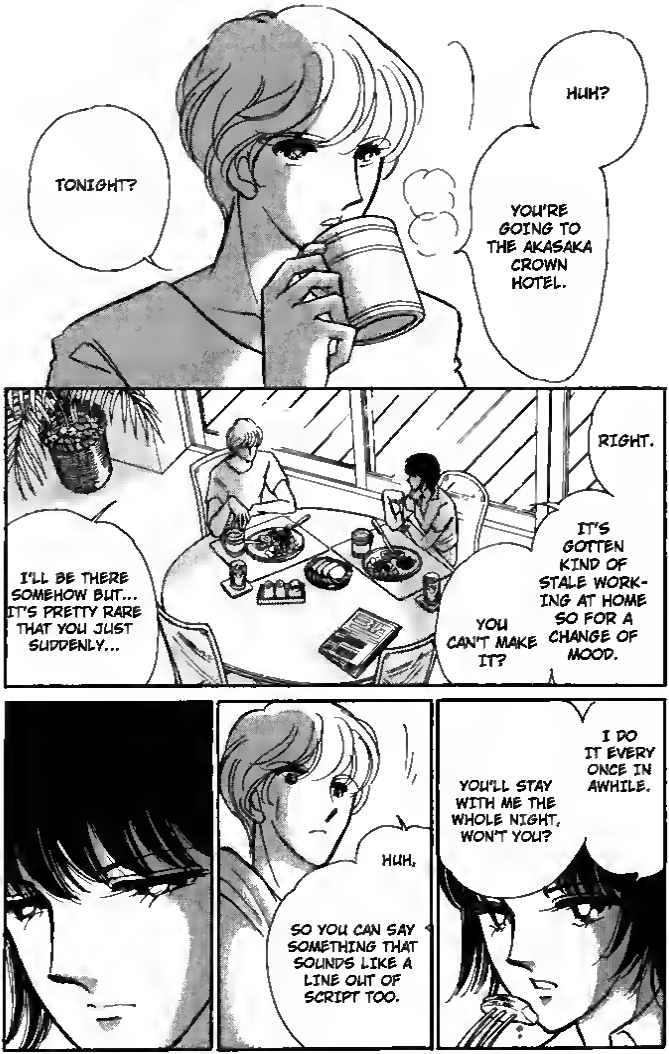
SO SHIKI-SAN,
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, EVEN IF YOU WITHDRAW FROM THIS YEAR'S NOMINEES THERE'S STILL A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF YOU.
IT SEEMS LIKE MASAKO INVESTIGATED YOU THROUGH AND THROUGH.
A WOMAN'S TENACITY IS FRIGHTENING, NO... A SCRIPTWRITER'S.. I SHOULD SAY.
A SCANDAL BIG ENOUGH TO CONSIGN "MORIMURA SHIKI" TO OBLIVION
AND THEN SHE FOUND SOMETHING.
THAT IS, A HUGE SCANDAL.

IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS WERE TO GET OUT TO THE MEDIA IT'D BE QUITE THE UPROAR.
IF YOU THINK OF IT LIKE THAT, MISSING OUT ON ONE AWARD DOESN'T SEEM SO BAD, DOES IT?
IF THIS WERE TO GET OUT TO THE PUBLIC, EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE BUILT UP WOULD CRUMBLE AWAY.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHIKI-KUN?
WELL SHIKI-SAN,
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE HAD QUITE THE HARD HALF-LIFE.....

AND I ALSO HAPPENED TO HEAR ABOUT THAT SCANDAL.
BUT IT'D BE A REAL SHAME TO CRUSH MORIMURA SHIKI.
THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE PLANS.
TOMORROW NIGHT,
WHY DON'T WE MEET IN AKASAKA'S CROWN
I'LL INFORM YOU OF THE ROOM NUMBER LATER, SO COME DIRECTLY TO THE ROOM.
GOT IT?

DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH.

I WON'T
FORGIVE ANYONE
THAT GETS IN
MY WAY!!


TONIGHT?
HUH?
YOU'RE GOING TO THE AKASAKA CROWN HOTEL.
I'LL BE THERE SOMEHOW BUT... IT'S PRETTY RARE THAT YOU JUST SUDDENLY...
YOU CAN'T MAKE IT?
IT'S GOTTEN KIND OF STALE WORKING AT HOME SO FOR A CHANGE OF MOOD.
RIGHT.
HUH,
SO YOU CAN SAY SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LINE OUT OF SCRIPT TOO.
YOU'LL STAY WITH ME THE WHOLE NIGHT, WON'T YOU?
I DO IT EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE.

706
SHUT
1012
DONG
DING
SO, YOU CAME.

I APOLOGIZE,
BUT YOU'LL ALLOW ME TO INSPECT YOUR BODY.
WHAT?
I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO STAB ME WITH A KNIFE LIKE YOU DID TO MASAKO.
.....
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT? JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW
THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME UNTIL MORNING.
OK.
SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON YOU.
HEY, THERE'S NO REASON TO RUSH.

MAY I HAVE A DRINK AS WELL?
OF COURSE, ARE YOU FINE WITH WHAT I WAS HAVING?
NO, I'D LIKE TO HAVE BEER I'M THIRSTY.
YES, YES
DO WANT A GLASS?
NO THANKS.
THEN CHEERS.
.....CHEERS.

YOU'RE TAKING A BATH RIGHT?
I'LL GO FILL THE BATHTUB.
CLANK
HMPH.
SO YOU HAVE CAUGHT ON.
WATER RUNNING
WATER RUNNING

HEY, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU STOPPED STALLIN...
WATER RUNNING
WHA...
WHAT...?

MY...MY BODY WON'T... MOVE
DID ..YOU PUT IN MY DRIN.....
DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST SLEEP MEDICATION.
IT IS 5 TIMES MORE THAN WHAT I GAVE TO RYOUSUKE THOUGH.
BUT DRINKING ALCOHOL AND MEDICINE
AND TAKING A BATH ISN'T VERY GOOD FOR YOU, IS IT?
AH...
AAAH

WHAT ARE YOU... DO
ST... STOP IT...
DRAG
STOP...IT
ST...
DRAG
SPLASH

SPLASH
SPLISH

ゴボ
ゴボ
HAA
HAA

OPEN
SHUT
NOW, I JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE NO ONE SEES ME.
IT'LL BE OVER ONCE I GET BACK TO RYOSUKE'S ROOM...
キィ
!!

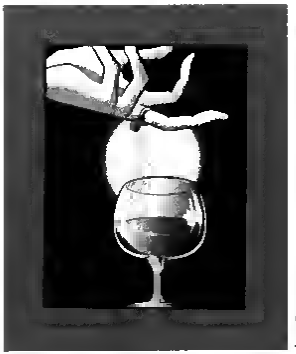
SHIKI-SENSEI,
WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
MAO...CHAN.

I WAS SEEN
HEY...HOW COULD YOU ASK WHY?
AH! I'M SORRY.
.....
AH, THIS IS MY FIANCE.
WE'RE PLANNING TO HAVE OUR WEDDING IN THE FALL...
I WAS SEEN
OF COURSE, YOU MUST BE WITH SHIINA-SAN.
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
YES... I'VE HEARD.
I WAS SEEN.....

I WON'T TELL ANYONE I MET SENSEI HERE.
I'LL DEFINITELY KEEP IT A SECRET SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY.
WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT SENSEI.

I WAS SEEN.....
ONCE THEY FIND KATSUTA'S BODY ON THIS FLOOR,
OF COURSE, MAO WILL THINK OF ME.
AND IF MY RELATION TO THIS WAS INVESTIGATED,
THE INCIDENT WITH MINASE/M SAKI AND MY PAST TOO WILL BE FOUND OUT...
I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT.

I'VE GOTTA
KILL ONE MORE.....
RIGHT.



Chie Shinohara

Chapter One Part Two
Translator - Dusty Ocean
Cleaner - Kathryn O'Hare
Typesetter - Whitney Pinto
Quester - Seriah

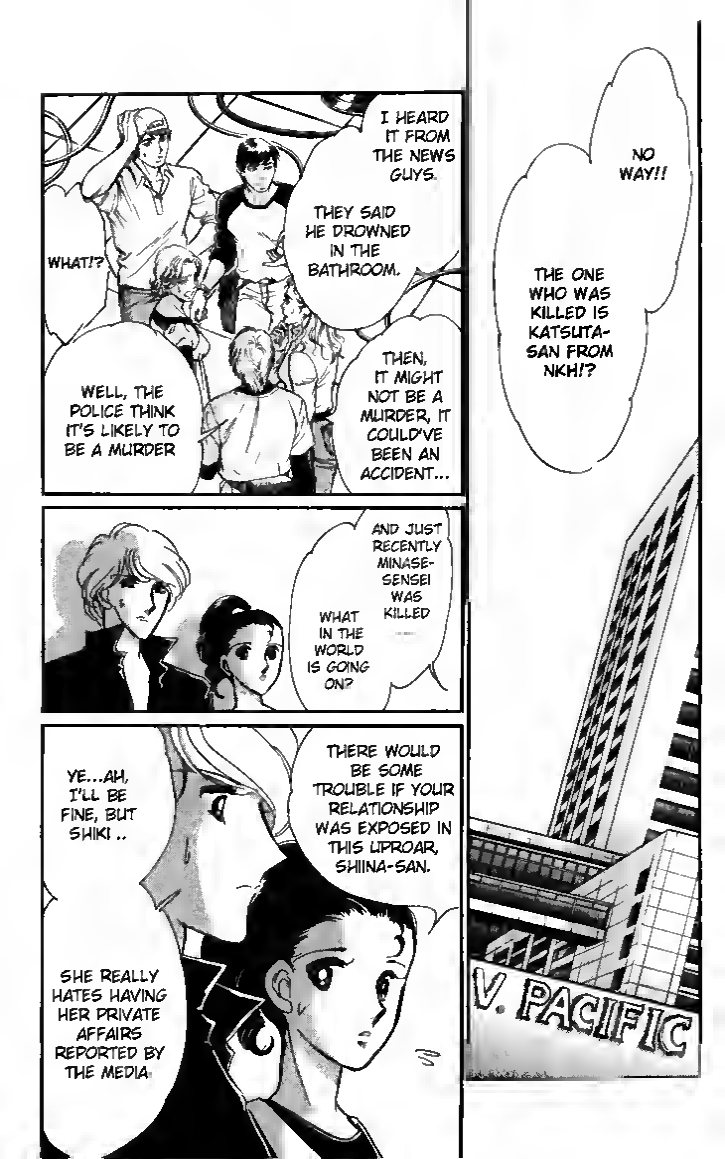
Weeooo
Weeooo
Weeooo
NN.....
Weeooo
WEE~~OOO~~
WEE~~OOO~~

HN...?
SHIKI, YOU AWAKE?
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S GOING ON.
.....
I DIDN'T EVEN DRINK THAT MUCH LAST NIGHT.
MY HEAD FEELS STRANGELY HEAVY.
WHAT IS THIS?
THERE'S A BUNCH OF POLICE CARS OUTSIDE
AHH, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING REALLY DID HAPPEN

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WE APOLO-GIZE.
THIS ELEVATOR IS CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE FOR USE.
IT MAYBE AN INCONVE-NIENCE BUT WE ASK FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
SOMETHING BIG MUST'VE HAPPENED FOR THE HOTEL TO BE IN SUCH AN UPROAR.
JUST WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED?

NOTHING.
WHAT'S WRONG SHIKI?
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MAO REALIZES THAT I'M THE CRIMINAL
LAST NIGHT, I WAS SEEN LEAVING KATSUTA'S ROOM BY MAO
SHIKI-SENSEI!
HUH, MAO-CHAN, YOU WERE HERE TOO?
YES
HAVE YOU HEARD?
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS A HOMICIDE, AND IT WAS ON THE 10TH FLOOR WHERE WE WERE STAYING TOO!
WHAT!? A MURDER?

WHAT?
HEY, ISN'T THAT...
...MUST BE THE CORPSE.
SO THERE REALLY WAS A MURDER ...HUH.


NO WAY!!
THE ONE WHO WAS KILLED IS KATSUTA-SAN FROM NKH!?
I HEARD IT FROM THE NEWS GUYS.
THEY SAID HE DROWNED IN THE BATHROOM.
WHAT!?
WELL, THE POLICE THINK IT'S LIKELY TO BE A MURDER
THEN, IT MIGHT NOT BE A MURDER, IT COULD'VE BEEN AN ACCIDENT...
AND JUST RECENTLY MINASE-SENSEI WAS KILLED
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?
THERE WOULD BE SOME TROUBLE IF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WAS EXPOSED IN THIS UPROAR, SHIINA-SAN.
YE...AH, I'LL BE FINE, BUT SHIKI ..
SHE REALLY HATES HAVING HER PRIVATE AFFAIRS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA.
V. PACIFIC

I JUST HEARD ABOUT THIS EARLIER, BUT KATSUTA-SAN WAS KILLED ON THE 10TH FLOOR
SHIINA-SAN, YOU TWO WERE STAYING ON THE SAME FLOOR AS US WEREN'T YOU?
DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TELL THE POLICE BEFORE THEY FIND OUT?
THE 10TH FLOOR?
WE WERE ON THE 7TH.
HUH?
BUT I MET SHIKI-SENSEI IN THE CORRIDOR OF THE 10TH FLOOR.
AS WE WERE ABOUT TO GO TO THE BAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
!?
!!
I DON'T THINK SHE WENT OUT ANYWHERE LAST NIGHT ...
HEY.
WE'RE ABOUT TO START FILMING.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID SUCH THINGS BEFORE THE TAKE.
AH...
I'M-I'M SORRY.
...IT'S FINE.
THEIR ROOM WAS ON THE 7TH FLOOR?
THEN WHY WAS SHE ON THAT FLOOR?
...IT COULDN'T BE?
MY HEAD HEAD WAS ODDLY HEAVY THIS MORNING
IT WAS AS IF I HAD TAKEN SOME MEDICINE OR SOMETHING...?

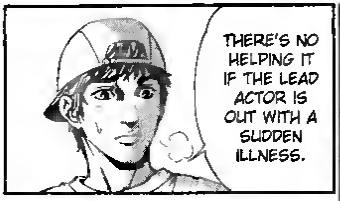
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
YOU'RE FINISHED FILMING?
THAT WAS QUICK.
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
YEAH
I GOT IT PERFECT ON THE FIRST TAKE.
PRAISE ME

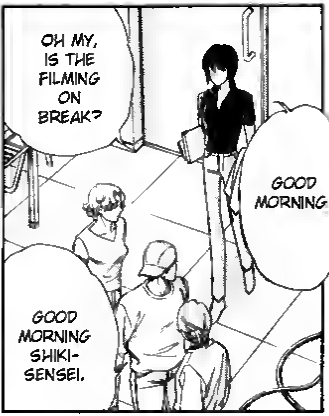
SO HEY, IT MIGHT BE A STRANGE THING TO ASK BUT,
LAST NIGHT, YOU...
YOU DIDN'T SNEAK OUT OF OUR HOTEL ROOM OR ANYTHING DID YOU?
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
OF COURSE NOT.
I WAS RIGHT NEXT TO YOU THE WHOLE NIGHT.
WHY WOULD YOU ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NO, IT'S FINE IF IT'S LIKE THAT.
I WAS JUST MAKING SURE YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE OR ANYTHING.
clack
clack
clack

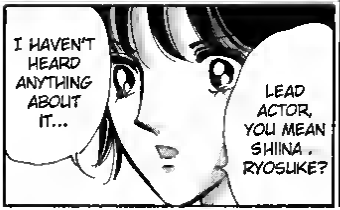
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WORK
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU WHILE YOU'RE WORKING
I'LL GO BACK TO MY APARTMENT FOR TODAY.
RYOSUKE HAS STARTED GETTING SUSPICIOUS
I'LL HAVE TO END THIS QUICKLY THEN
I NEED TO ELIMINATE ONE MORE AND PUT AN END TO EVERYTHING

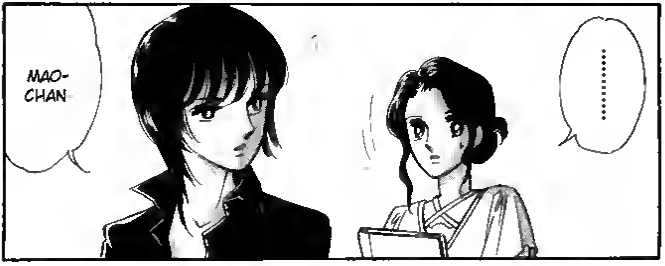
I DON'T KNOW THE MORIMURA SHIKI FROM BEFORE SHE BECAME A SCRIPTWRITER
BUT...
IT COULDN'T BE... RIGHT...
NO, IT'S NOT JUST ME
KATSUTA WAS AND MINASE MASAKO AS WELL, THEY WERE IN THE WAY OF SHIKI RECEIVING THE AWARD
SHIKI HASN'T REVEALED HER PROFILE TO THE PUBLIC WHATSOEVER
BUT SHE'S NOT SOMEONE WHO'D TRY TO WIN IT BY KILLING THEM OFF...
THERE'S NO ONE WHO KNOWS SHIKI'S PAST!!

TV. PACIFIC

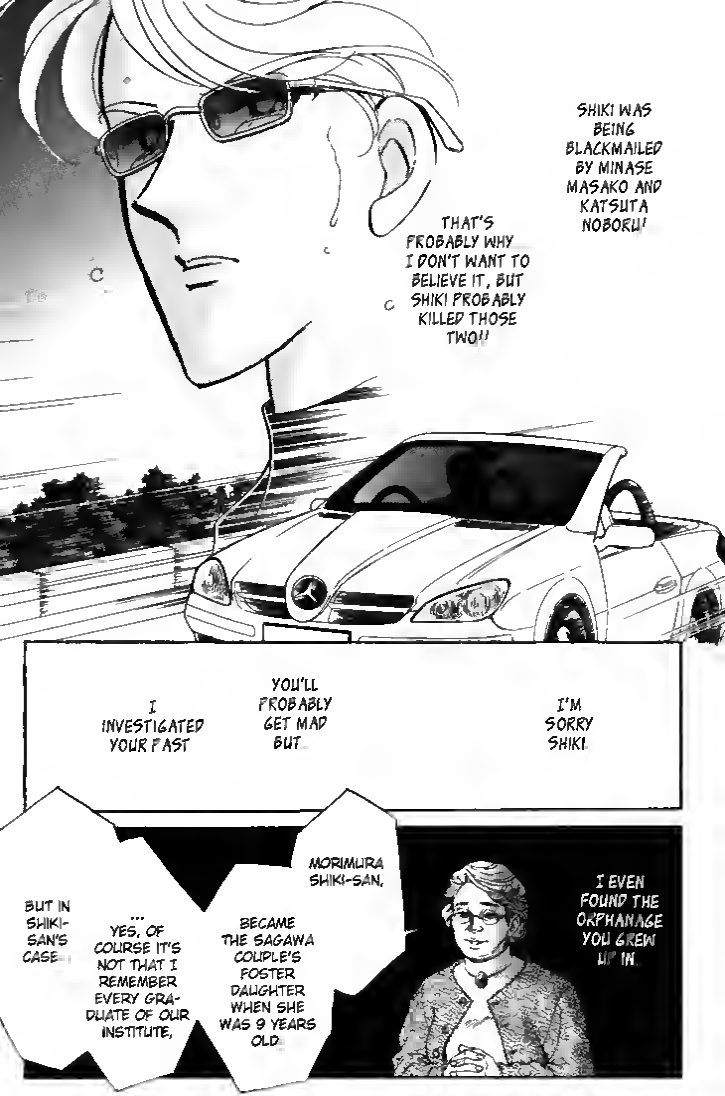

THERE'S NO HELPING IT IF THE LEAD ACTOR IS OUT WITH A SUDDEN ILLNESS.


OH MY, IS THE FILMING ON BREAK?
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING SHIKI-SENSEI.


I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
LEAD ACTOR, YOU MEAN SHIINA . RYOSUKE?

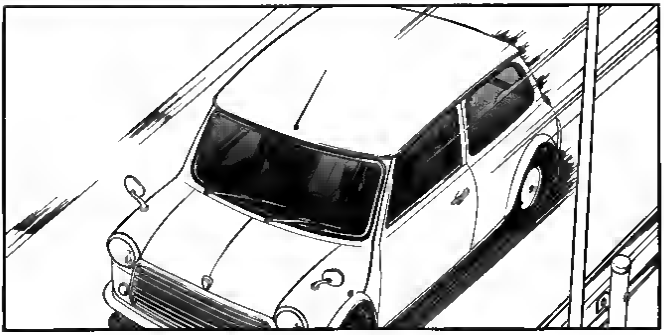

MAO-CHAN
.....

.....
LOOKS LIKE I NEED TO HURRY.
MAO-CHAN
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A MOMENT.


SHIKI WAS BEING BLACKMAILED BY MINASE MASAKO AND KATSUTA NOBORU!
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT SHIKI PROBABLY KILLED THOSE TWO!!
I INVESTIGATED YOUR PAST
YOU'LL PROBABLY GET MAD BUT...
I'M SORRY SHIKI.
MORIMURA SHIKI-SAN,
BECAME THE SAGAWA COUPLE'S FOSTER DAUGHTER WHEN SHE WAS 9 YEARS OLD.
... YES, OF COURSE IT'S NOT THAT I REMEMBER EVERY GRADUATE OF OUR INSTITUTE,
BUT IN SHIKI-SAN'S CASE...
I EVEN FOUND THE ORPHANAGE YOU GREW UP IN.

WHEN YOU WERE 13 YOU FELL IN LOVE
NORMALLY, IT MIGHT HAVE ENDED AS A CUTE FIRST LOVE BUT...
YOUR FOSTER FATHER DIED AS A RESULT!!
YOU GUYS TRIED TO RUN AWAY WHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WAS DISAPPROVED OF, AND UNFORTUNATELY...
SPEAKING OF SHIKI-SAN.
THERE WAS SOMEONE ASKING ABOUT HER SAYING THAT SHE MIGHT BE HER LOST NIECE.
HAS THAT PERSON MANAGED TO FIND SHIKI-SAN?
WHAT? YES, THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS A LADY AROUND 40 YEARS OF AGE.
IT WAS MINASE MASAKO!!

BUT IN THAT CASE, SHIKI MUST FEEL CORNERED SINCE SHE WAS SEEN ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE HOTEL BY MAO-CHAN
Beep—?
Beep—?
NO, NOT IF, IT MUST BE TRUE
IF IT WAS SHIKI WHO KILLED MINASE AND KATSUTA.
Beep
DAMN! SHE'S NOT ANSWERING!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SHIKI!!
WHAT WILL SHIKI DO?
SHE WAS SEEN BY MAO-CHAN



SE... SENSEI.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I... HAVE PLANS AFTER THIS...
I TOLD YOU. WE'RE CHECKING OUT THE LOCATION.
THERE'S A PLACE I WANT YOU TO USE FOR THE FINAL EPISODE OF "SEA SPARROW."
SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS THAT, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO ASK THE PRODUCER THAN ME...
I WANT YOU TO SEE IT MAO-CHAN

SENSEI?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS ..?
.....
WELL, MAO-CHAN .....
AH, EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
Bip
SO WHEN I FOUND SOMEONE THAT I LIKED, I THOUGHT THAT PERSON WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY FATHER.
I WAS LIVING WITH MY FOSTER PARENTS YOU KNOW, BUT MY FOSTER MOTHER DIED YOUNG, AND I FELT THAT MY FOSTER FATHER'S DOTING WAS SUFFOCATING
MY FIRST LOVE DIED IN THIS SEA
PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY IT'S A PLACE FILLED WITH MEMORIES.
SENSEI, THIS IS?

Are you with Shiki right now by any chance?
.. Y-YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
Where are you now?
Then please talk so that she doesn't realize it's a call from me
YES, THIS IS TAKAHASHI.
Mao-chan, it's me.
Shiina Ryosuke
RIGHT NOW?
AH, I'M AT THE TIP OF THE YUMIGASAKI CAPE DOING A LOCATION CHECK.
I got it. I'll head there right away, give me an hour
Y...YEAH, I'LL BE BACK BY EVENING.
WHO WAS IT?
MY-MY FIANCE.
WE PROMISED TO HAVE DINNER TOGETHER.
UM, WHY DON'T WE LOOK OVER THERE? THE SCENERY LOOKS GREAT.
I NEED TO HANG ON UNTIL SHIINA-SAN GETS HERE...

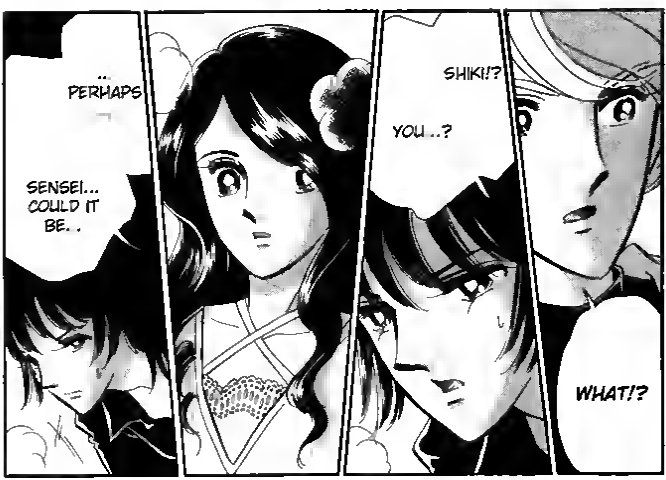
...IT'S NICE HERE TOO BUT,
IT'S EVEN NICER CLOSER TO THE EDGE OF THE CAPE.
UM... UM SENSEI, I ALSO...
I ALSO DON'T KNOW MY REAL PARENTS.
I WAS PUT IN AN INSTITUTION RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN
SO I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE FACES OF MY PARENTS
BUT I AM GRATEFUL TO MY MOTHER AND FATHER.
IT'S BECAUSE THEY GAVE BIRTH TO ME THAT I'M ABLE TO LIVE HAPPILY NOW,
AND IN THE FALL I'M EVEN GETTING MARRIED TO SOMEONE I LOVE
I KNOW.
!!
WHAT?
YOU KNOW... HUH?
YOU WENT TO COLLEGE ON A SCHOLARSHIP AND WORKED HARD ALL ON YOUR OWN
AND NOW YOU'RE FINALLY ABOUT TO OBTAIN HAPPINESS

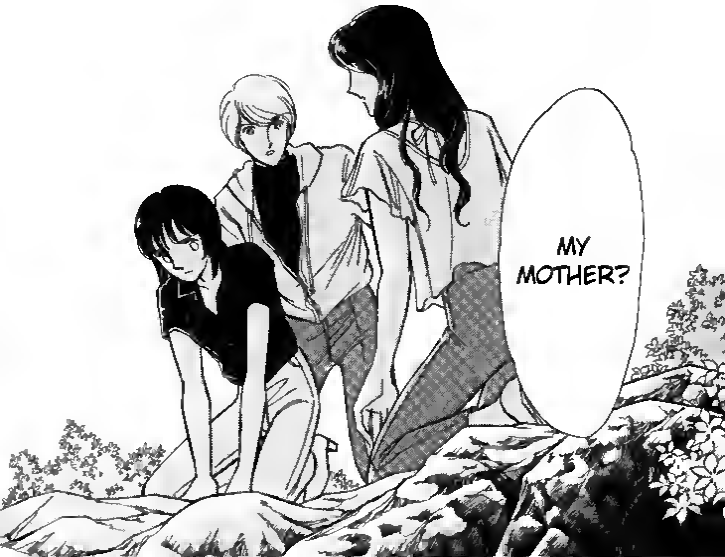
YOU MUST HAVE WORKED VERY HARD MAO-CHAN.
I IMAGINE IT WAS DIFFICULT.
SENSEI...?
AND YOUR FIANCE'S FROM AN OLD FAMILY IN THE HOKURIKU REGION.
AND THEY MUST HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A GIRL FROM A GOOD FAMILY.
SORRY, MAO-CHAN.
THEN,
THEN WAS IT REALLY YOU, SHIKI-SENSEI, WHO KILLED THOSE TWO!?

I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.
I WON'T TELL ANYONE THAT I SAW YOU IN THE HOTEL CORRIDOR!
I KNOW SENSEI ISN'T THE TYPE OF PERSON TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT FOR YOUR OWN GAIN!
KU!
HUH!?
IF SENSEI IS THE CRIMINAL,
THEN THERE MUST BE AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR IT!

SENSEI!!
SEIKKAI
SEIKAI
SEIKAI

!?
RYO-SUKE!?
NO..
DON'T DO SOMETHING STUPID SHIKI.
THAT'S NOT IT, SHIINA-SAN.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO TRY TO KILL EVEN MAO-CHAN ...
SHE TRIED TO JUMP OFF THE CLIFF HERSELF!
SENSEI DIDN'T TRY TO KILL ME!


..
PERHAPS
SENSEI... COULD IT BE..
SHIKI!?
YOU..?
WHAT!?


MY MOTHER?

SENSEI, ARE YOU PERHAPS, MY MOTHER . ?
WHAT...?
I'VE HEARD A LITTLE ABOUT IT.
AND THE FATHER DIED AT SEA BEFORE I WAS BORN.
THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME WAS VERY YOUNG AND COULDN'T RAISE ME.
NO!!
SHIKI!!
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!!
I JUST WANTED THE SCRIPT-WRITER'S AWARD!
THEY USED THAT TO TRY TO MAKE ME WITHDRAW FROM THE NOMINEES SO I KILLED THEM...
MINASE AND KATSUTA FOUND OUT THAT MY FOSTER FATHER DIED AS A RESULT OF MY YOUNG LOVE

IF MAO-CHAN'S ORIGINS WERE MADE PUBLIC... YOU THOUGHT IT MIGHT RUIN HER CHANCE TO GET MARRIED. AND THAT'S WHY YOU KILLED THEM?
SHIKI!?
IS THAT TRUE SHIKI!?
YOU KILLED THEM FOR MAO-CHAN'S SAKE!?
I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THAT SUMMER WHEN I ESCAPED TO THE SEA...
WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO GO
THE SMALL LIFE I HELD INSIDE ME,
MY FATHER TRIED TO FORCE ME TO ABORT AND CHASED ME HERE WHERE I ACCIDENTALLY PUSHED HIM OFF

BUT STILL,
THEY KEPT CHASING, AND CHASING
I COULDN'T PROTECT HIM..
AND HE WAS SWALLOWED BY THE SEA..
MAKOTO!!

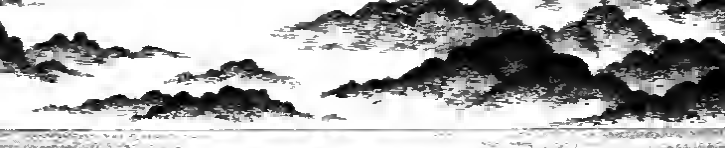
I'LL NEVER FORGET
THAT BIRD I SAW FROM THE SHIP
FLAPPING ITS WINGS
AND RUNNING OUT OF STRENGTH,
THE SWALLOW THAT DISAPPEARED INTO THE WAVES
EVEN IF THEY KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE,
THERE WAS A SEA THEY HAD TO CROSS

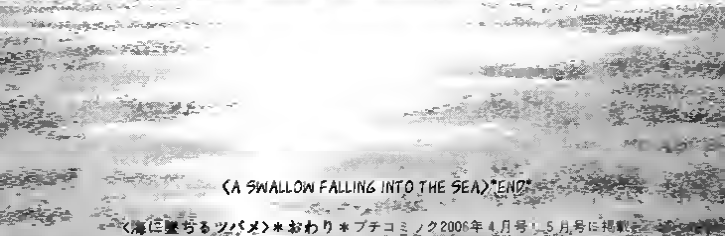
RYOSUKE...
I'M ACTUALLY A WHOLE 8 YEARS OLDER THAN YOU. I'VE TOLD YOU SO MANY LIES.
I SAW YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE
I ALREADY KNEW.
BUT YOU LIKE ME RIGHT? YOU'RE SELFISH AND HAUGHTY SO YOU WOULDN'T STAY WITH A MAN YOU DON'T LIKE.
...
SO, I'LL BE WAITING.
THE POLICE..
I CAN CALL THEM RIGHT?
MOTHER.

A SWALLOW
CROSSING
THE SEA,

IT FLAPS
AND FLAPS
ITS WINGS,

DREAMING OF
THE SHORE IT
WILL SOMEDAY
REACH...





〈A SWALLOW FALLING INTO THE SEA〉"END"

〈海に墜ちるツバメ〉＊おわり＊プチコミック2006年4月号・5月号に掲載

A Swallow Falling into the Sea
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Brought to you by M&Sea
http://worldofcreation.webs.com/

The footsteps of my memory

Chie Shinohara

I knew that Yukiyo was just looking for a good excuse to start talking about breaking up with me.
I was so irritated...
with the man sitting right next to me.
!!
Ah!
SCREEEEECH

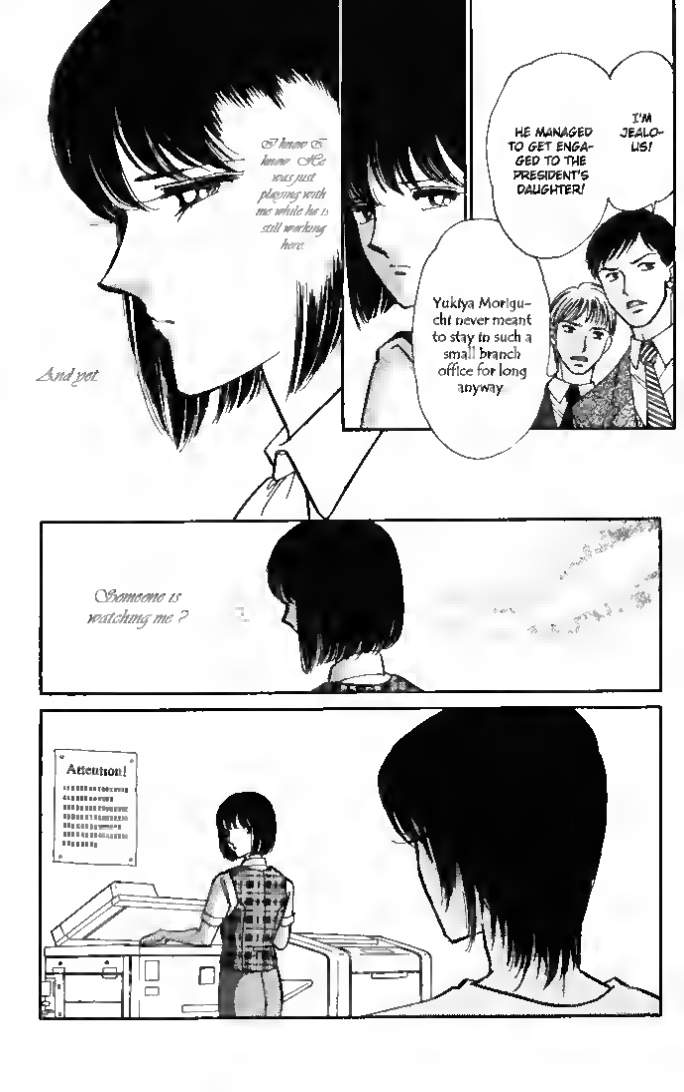
BA
NG
Kyaaaa!

!?
NO, AN AMBULANCE FIRST!
AH, THE POLICE!
I LOOKED AWAY FOR A MERE SECOND AND...
WHAT... WHAT HAVE I DONE!

Even if it was a crazy notion, just for one moment I believed that in that way I'd be able to stop Kikkyo from leaving me
Just for one moment
WHAT "SOMETHING"...?
I'll think of something, just leave it to me!
And do you realise what might happen if anyone found out I was here too?
It's his fault he rushed in front of the car!
BUT THAT MAN IS HURT... WHAT IF HE DIES?
YUKIA?
Don't call anyone here!
Wait, Shouko!

朝海新聞
It's not in the paper's today
And the news didn't report any accidents like it
Last night Yukeyo put that man in the car and drove off"
But what happened after that?
...KO!
SHOUKO!

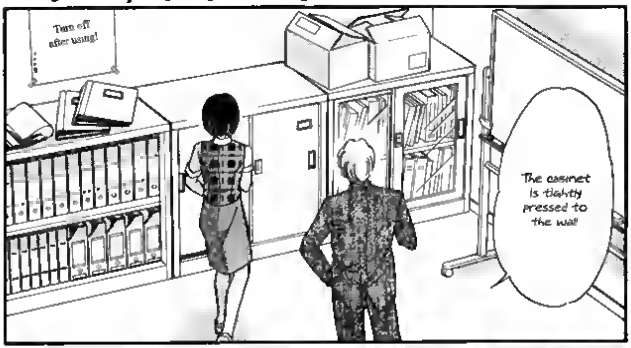
Cough
Ah!
SHOUKO!
THE BOSS IS GLARING AT YOU!
Clatter
I'm going to bring coffee!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE NEXT AUDIT
IT WOULDN'T BE VERY NICE IF THEY SAW PEOPLE IN THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT SPACING OUT LIKE THAT
Yukiya
Moriguchi-san, I heard about your promotion!
Congratulations!
MORIGUCHI-SAN, WE'LL BE SO LONELY IF YOU GET TRANSFERRED SOMEWHERE ELSE!


I'm jealous!
He managed to get engaged to the president's daughter!
Yukiya Moriguchi never meant to stay in such a small branch office for long anyway
I know Kazuhiro was just playing with me while he is still working here
And yet
Someone is watching me?
Attention!

Turn off after using!
WAH..
running
clank
THE MAN FROM LAST NIGHT!!

Sho... Hasegawa-kun!
YUKIYA YUKIYA
THE MAN FROM LAST NIGHT IS HERE...
He died
Why can't you get it?
Don't call me that way when we're here at the company!
And don't say such stupid...
I KNOW! BUT THE MAN FROM LAST NIGHT IS HERE!
That's impossible!!
IT'S TRUE! HE SOMEHOW FOUND OUT WHO WE WERE AND...

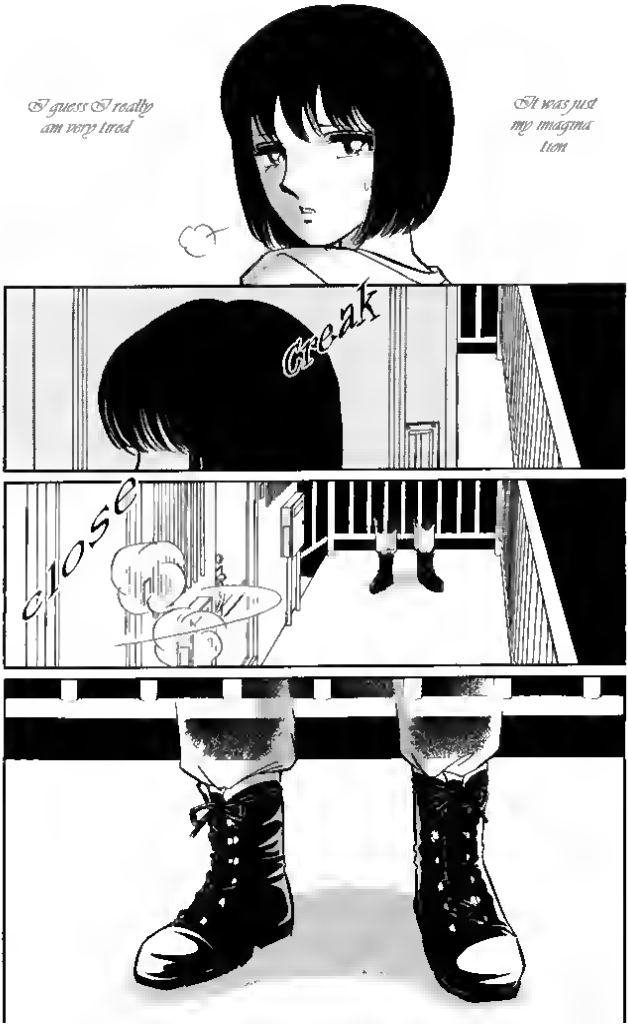
Yes.
Instant death after you ran him over.
And I buried him in a mountain in the neighboring prefecture.
So he can't possibly be in the office.
EH?
DIED?
OVER THERE!
HE'S RIGHT BEHIND THAT CABINET...
In the coffee room?
I'M NOT LYING! COME WITH ME!
HE WAS IN THE COFFEE ROOM!
!!
Where?


Turn off after using!
The cabinet is tightly pressed to the wall

I'll come to your place tonight, all right?
You're just tired.
And anyway, you shouldn't talk about this in the office.

I killed him!?
Instant death.? He died because of me.

I killed that man...?
I should've called the police!
Step
Could it be already too late if I went now?
Step
Step
Step
Step
Step
Step
Step
Step
But how will I explain that the body was buried somewhere?
Step
Step
Is someone behind me?
Too late? Is other than mine?


I guess I really am very tired
It was just my imagination
Creak
close

I'm sorry I'm late.
The guys from the sales department insisted on holding a farewell party for me.
Shouko!
Yuki-ya,
I decided I must surrender to the police after all.
Don't even think about such things.
I told you it was his fault, he rushed before a speeding car!
And if that happens I won't be able to go back to the company or even to come see you anymore.
And if anyone hears about the accident, they'll also know about our affair

I know you're just waiting for an excuse to leave me
You liar
You're so shy Yukiyo
So I did as you told me and I hid the truth about the accident But I wish I hadn't
And although I knew it I still loved you I didn't want to break up with you
Maybe he was a university student
After all he was still a young man

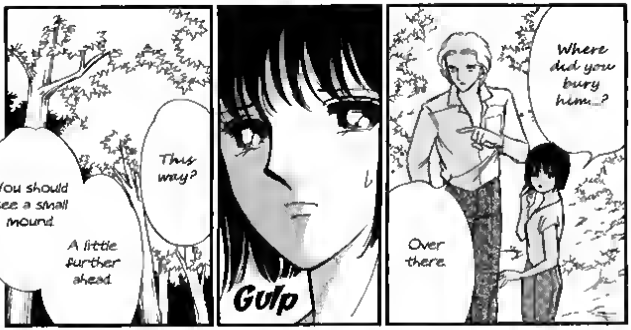
Yukuya
I must go to the police after all
Don't worry, I won't tell them about you.
I'll pretend you never even knew about it.
I've done something truly horrible!!
I see... Of course, I must go with you.
But let's do it tomorrow, what do you say?
Once you surrender, we will never see each other again.

...
We will never see each other again
Maybe that would be for the best Because I'm not strong enough to break up on my own
!!

KYAAAAAAAAAAA!!
AH! THAT MAN!
THAT MAN IS IN THE CELLAR!
Shouko, what are you talking about!?
Didn't I tell you he is dead!?

BUT I SAW HIM! HE REALLY WAS THERE!
Cut it out! There's no such thing as ghosts!
YES, HE'S DEAD! I KILLED HIM!
Shouko!
Look, there's absolutely nothing up there!
THAT'S WHY HE HATES ME AND CAME BACK TO HAUNT ME...
Dead people can't harm anyone!
You must see his corpse with your own eyes.
WHAT?
Let's go see him then.
YUKIYA?
Come with me!

SCREECH
Yukiya, don't!
I don't want to see a corpse!
If you don't, you'll keep seeing things!
Or are you too scared to look at the man you killed yourself?
The man I killed myself
He's right
I must at least see him before I go to the police to ask for his forgiveness.


You should see a small mound
A little further ahead
This way?
Gulp
Where did you bury him...?
Over there.

But it's too dark to see any

WAH!
YUKIYA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'm sorry,..
..Shouko
But I want to bury you in that mound together with him

But Why?!
I promised you I won't involve you!
In the accident, yes.
But if you're alive it'll be worse.
!?
Do you remember the accounting audit at the accounting department?
If you are alive they'll find out that I used your password to steal the company's funds.
That's what I intended to do that night, but that man got in the way.
EH!?
So if I kill you and make it look like a suicide, -
before that happens it will seem that YOU were the one who stole them.

SQUEEZE
NOOOOO!
So sorry, Shouko!
Step
You were a good girl,
.. so I'm really sorry.
I guess I got lucky
He was chasing ME when he rushed in front of your car
I don't know how, but he seemed to know everything.
I don't think you know it, ..
.. but he was the security guard of our branch office. Probably a university student

Step
Step
Step
Step
Step
Step
!!
!?

Wa a a a a !
Wha.. What's that?! Just feet..?!
!!
Noo! Stop!
Stay away!!

Even though I ran you over and killed you
Did did you come to save me ?
I'll tell the police all about
!?
What do you mean?
Eh?

But...
But isn't this the grave where Yukuya buried you?!
Why is it...
The hole is... EMPTY!?
!?

Before morning came,
Yukeyra was discovered lying unconscious below the cliffs.
His life wasn't in danger but I told the police the whole story.
So I'm not sure he'll be so happy he didn't die after that fall.
And in the hospital where they took Yukeyra to
He was brought here with mud and blood all over him and he wouldn't regain consciousness.
He didn't have any documents or anything to help us find his identity.
But in the end everything turned out all right
Hello! You have a visitor!

I'm so glad!
You are alive!
I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry I run you over...
It was my fault.
I knew you were in danger and jumped before the car without thinking...
You...?
I... I was always watching you...
And then when I learned of what Morigushi was planning...
I just...

Wait... I know the sound of your footsteps..?
When I worked overtime alone
—I always heard them...
I'm sorry...
Thank you!
Can you tell me your name? I'm Shouko Hasegawa!
I know!!
And I'm...

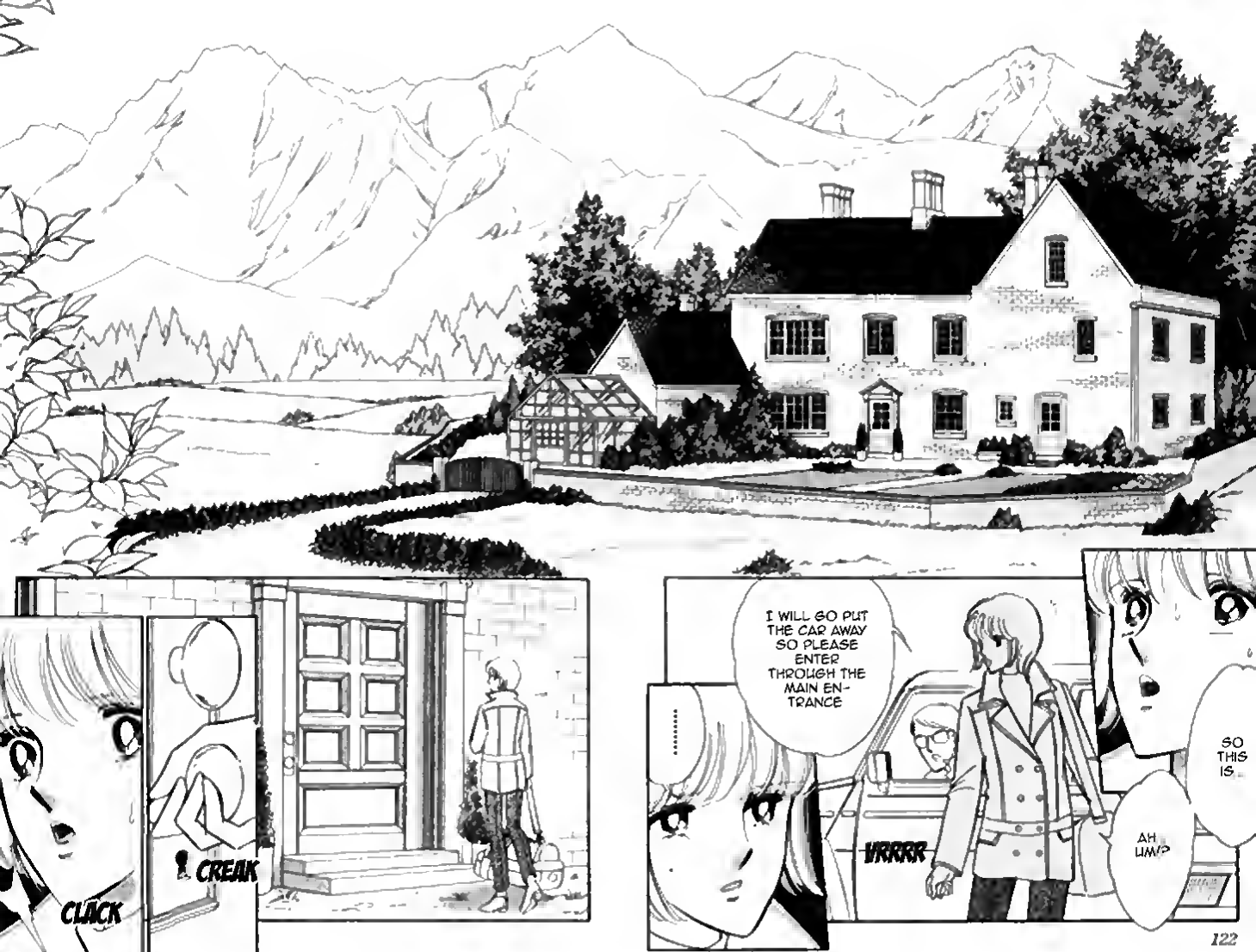
<The footsteps of my memory> "THE END"
First printed in Petit Comi, September issue, 2005 year

Cleaner : Rocky
Scanner and Translator :
DustyOcean

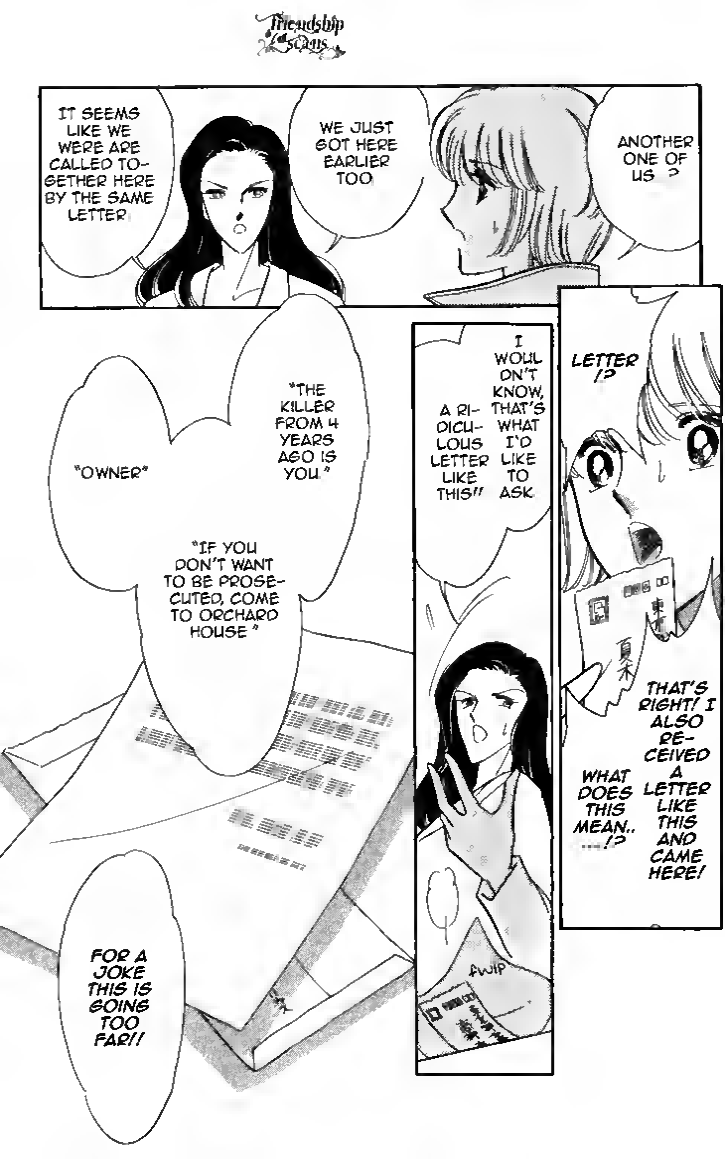
死刑台の72時間

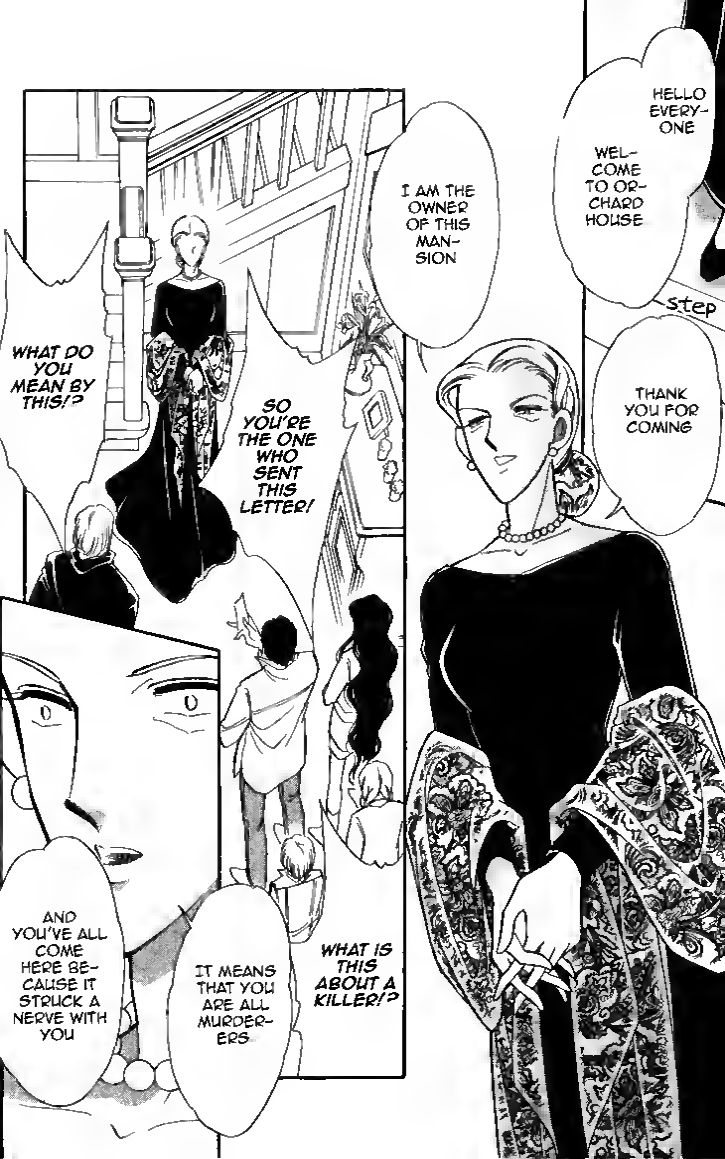
Chie Shinohara

VROOOOOM
UM...
WE'VE BEEN DRIVING FOR MORE THAN 2 HOURS SINCE THE TRAIN STATION NOW...
I HEARD THAT THE ONLY MEANS OF GETTING THERE IS BY CAR BUT IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
YES
YOU CAN SEE IT NOW
THAT OVER THERE IS ORCHARD HOUSE

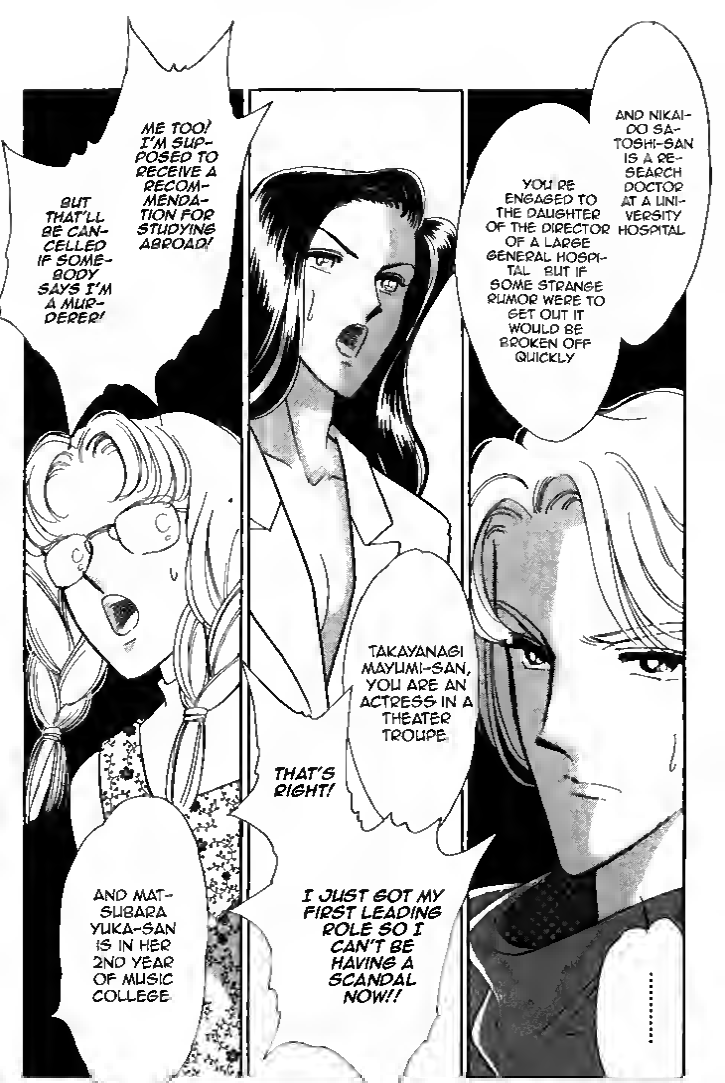

CLICK
CREAK
I WILL GO PUT THE CAR AWAY SO PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE
.....
VRRRR
AH UM?
SO THIS IS

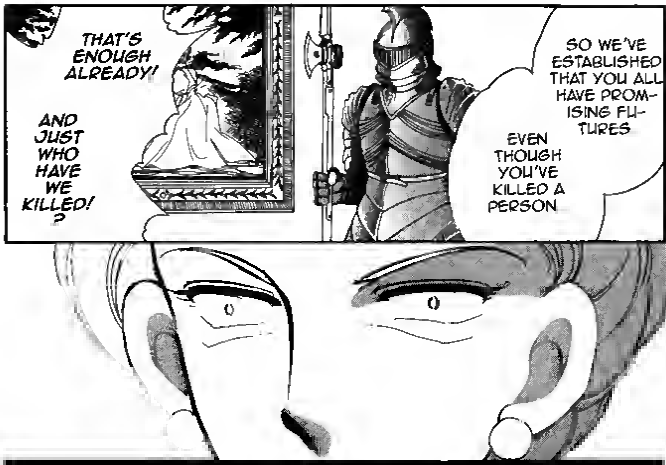
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER ONE OF US HAS ARRIVED
THE MAN WHO PICKED US UP SAID THERE WERE 5 IN ALL, SO NOW WE'RE ALL HERE


IT SEEMS LIKE WE WERE ARE CALLED TOGETHER HERE BY THE SAME LETTER
WE JUST GOT HERE EARLIER TOO
ANOTHER ONE OF US ?
LETTER !?
THAT'S RIGHT! I ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER LIKE THIS AND CAME HERE!
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN.. ...!?
I WOULDN'T KNOW, THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO ASK
A RIDICULOUS LETTER LIKE THIS!!
"THE KILLER FROM 4 YEARS AGO IS YOU."
"OWNER"
"IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE PROSECUTED, COME TO ORCHARD HOUSE"
FOR A JOKE THIS IS GOING TOO FAR!!


HELLO EVERY-ONE
WEL-COME TO OR-CHARD HOUSE
I AM THE OWNER OF THIS MAN-SION
step
THANK YOU FOR COMING
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THIS!?
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT THIS LETTER!
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT A KILLER!?
IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE ALL MURDER-ERS
AND YOU'VE ALL COME HERE BE-CAUSE IT STRUCK A NERVE WITH YOU

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NATSUKI KIRIKO-SAN?
M...ME!?
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
BUT AFTER I GRADUATE I'M GOING TO BE WORKING AT A TRADING FIRM...
IF THE COM-PANY FOUND OUT ABOUT A LETTER LIKE THIS THEY MIGHT DECIDE AGAINST HIRING ME! SO I CAME HERE TO PRO-TEST IT!
I'M THE SAME!
AT FIRST I WAS IGNOR-ING THE LETTER BUT THEN THE BANK-
THE BANK THAT WAS GOING TO HIRE ME SAID THEY RECEIVED A PHONE CALL ABOUT THE SAME THING!!
YOU MUST BE HIMURO TAKAA-KI-SAN
YOU AND KIRIKO-SAN ARE 4TH YEAR UNIVER-SITY STU-DENTS IF I RECALL COR-RECTLY


AND NIKAIDO SATOSHI-SAN IS A RESEARCH DOCTOR AT A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
YOU'RE ENGAGED TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE DIRECTOR OF A LARGE GENERAL HOSPITAL BUT IF SOME STRANGE RUMOR WERE TO GET OUT IT WOULD BE BROKEN OFF QUICKLY
.....
TAKAYANAGI MAYUMI-SAN, YOU ARE AN ACTRESS IN A THEATER TROUPE
THAT'S RIGHT!
I JUST GOT MY FIRST LEADING ROLE SO I CAN'T BE HAVING A SCANDAL NOW!!
AND MATSUBARA YUKA-SAN IS IN HER 2ND YEAR OF MUSIC COLLEGE
BUT THAT'LL BE CANCELLED IF SOMEBODY SAYS I'M A MURDERER!
ME TOO! I'M SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDYING ABROAD!


THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY!
AND JUST WHO HAVE WE KILLED!?
SO WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT YOU ALL HAVE PROMISING FUTURES
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE KILLED A PERSON

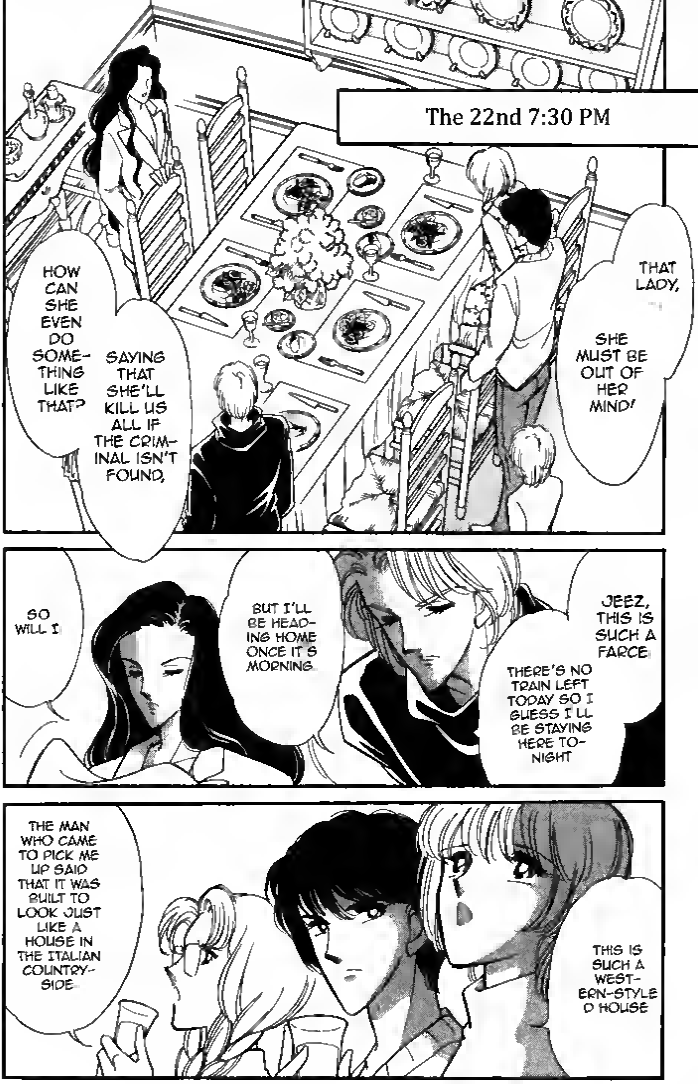
ONE OUT OF THE 5 OF YOU
HAS KILLED MY SON

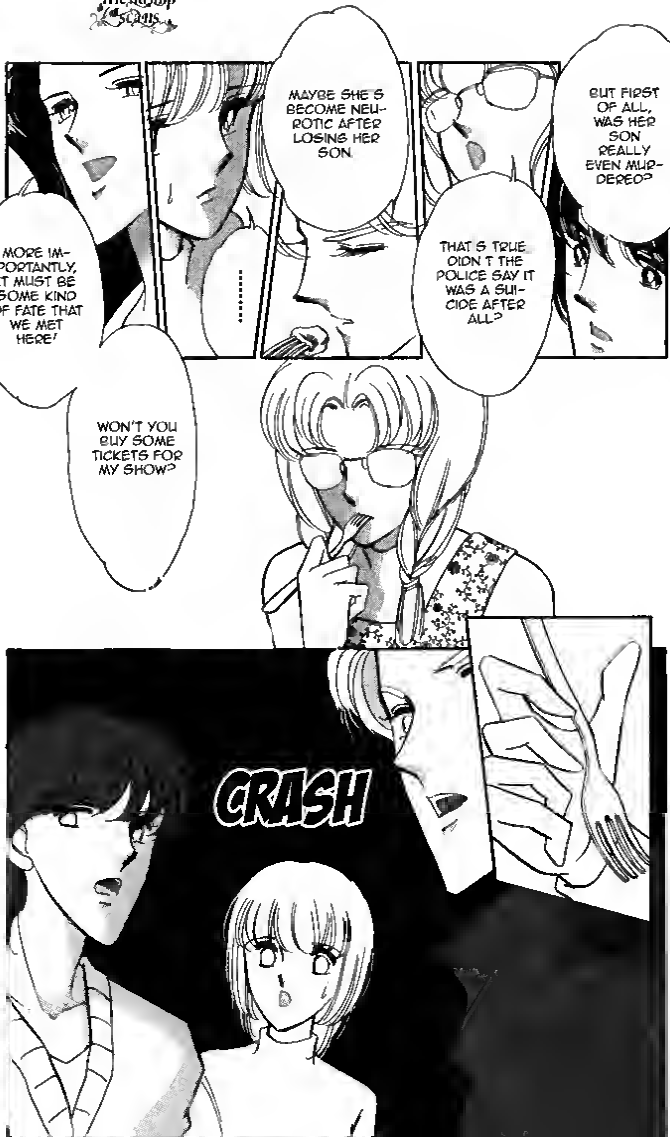
ONE OUT OF THE 5 OF US
HAS KILLED
YOUR SON...!?
IT WAS Z PREP SCHOOL IN TOKYO
CORRECT IT WAS ON A SUMMER NIGHT 4 YEARS AGO
MY SON, WHO WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL, FELL FROM THE ROOF OF HIS PREP SCHOOL AND DIED

Z PREP SCHOOL?
FOUR YEARS AGO I ALSO WENT THERE BUT...?
M...ME TOO...
THAT'S RIGHT, AT THE TIME KIRIKO-SAN AND TAKAAKI-SAN WERE EXAM STUDENTS.
YUKA-SAN WAS TAKING LESSONS FOR THE MUSIC COLLEGE
AND MAYUMI-SAN WAS A CLERK THERE.
SATOSHI-SAN WAS TEACHING THERE PART-TIME.
WAS THERE AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT WHERE A STUDENT FELL TO HIS DEATH?
BUT WASN'T THAT A SUICIDE?
NO-WELL NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT...
ABSOLUTELY NOT! THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE REASON FOR THAT CHILD TO COMMIT SUICIDE!
MY CHILD WAS MURDERED!
THAT NIGHT, HE WAS PUSHED DOWN BY ONE OF THE 5 OF YOU WHO WERE STILL LEFT WITHIN THE PREP SCHOOL!!

HA! THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!
CONFESS...THAT'S...
WELL THEN WHO KILLED MY SON!? CONFESS
BECAUSE I WANTED TO KNOW WHO THE KILLER OF MY SON WAS
OF COURSE I HAD IT INVESTIGATED
HOW DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WE WERE STILL LEFT IN THE BUILDING...?
I MEANT TO FIND OUT THE ONE WHO KILLED MY SON AND GET MY REVENGE BUT...
I SUPPOSE NO ONE FEELS LIKE CONFESSING
INDEED

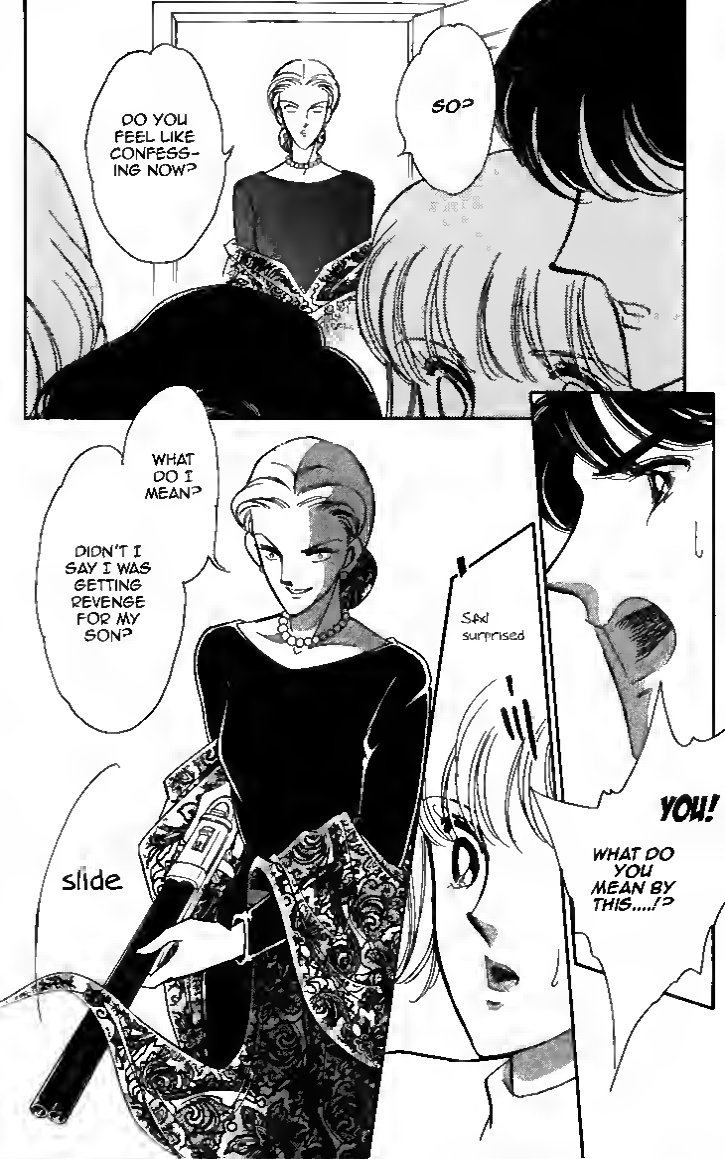
BUT IF THE TRUE CRIMINAL INTENDS TO STAY SILENT
I'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE ALL 5 OF YOU DIE.


The 22nd 7:30 PM
THAT LADY,
SHE MUST BE OUT OF HER MIND!
SAYING THAT SHE'LL KILL US ALL IF THE CRIMINAL ISN'T FOUND,
HOW CAN SHE EVEN DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
JEEZ, THIS IS SUCH A FARCE
THERE'S NO TRAIN LEFT TODAY SO I GUESS I'LL BE STAYING HERE TONIGHT
BUT I'LL BE HEADING HOME ONCE IT'S MORNING
SO WILL I
THIS IS SUCH A WESTERN-STYLED HOUSE
THE MAN WHO CAME TO PICK ME UP SAID THAT IT WAS BUILT TO LOOK JUST LIKE A HOUSE IN THE ITALIAN COUNTRYSIDE


BUT FIRST OF ALL, WAS HER SON REALLY EVEN MURDERED?
MAYBE SHE'S BECOME NEUROTIC AFTER LOSING HER SON.
THAT'S TRUE. DIDN'T THE POLICE SAY IT WAS A SUICIDE AFTER ALL?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF FATE THAT WE MET HERE!
WON'T YOU BUY SOME TICKETS FOR MY SHOW?
CRASH

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
AUGH..
.!!
CLATTER
GUH!!
KYAAH!?
WHA... WHAT!? WHAT'S GOING ON!?
CRASH

tremble
GUH!
GEH!
SHE'S DEAD.
THERE'S THE SCENT OF ALMOND. IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF CYANIDE POISONING.
DOES SHE REALLY INTEND TO KILL ALL OF US!?
THAT'S...!!
COULD IT BE THAT LADY!?

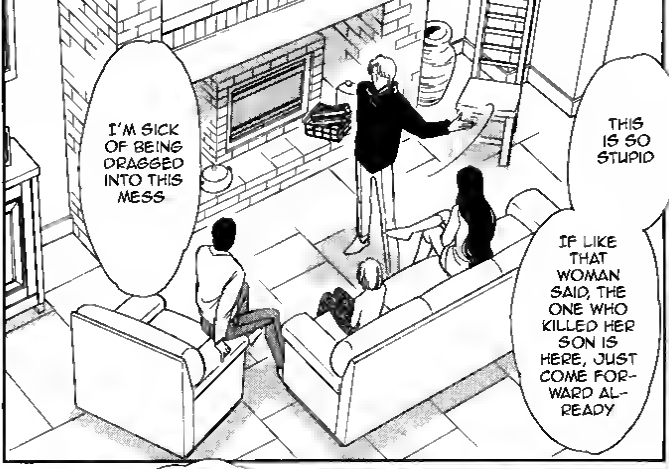

DO YOU FEEL LIKE CONFESSING NOW?
SO?
WHAT DO I MEAN?
DIDN'T I SAY I WAS GETTING REVENGE FOR MY SON?
slide
SAW surprised
YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THIS....!?

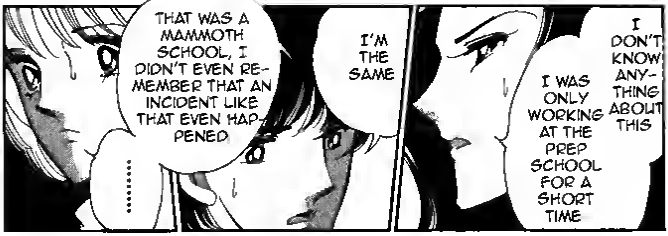
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH YOU!!
STOP MESSING WITH US!
THAT'S
I...I CAN'T STAY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
HEY!?
erin
BAMM!

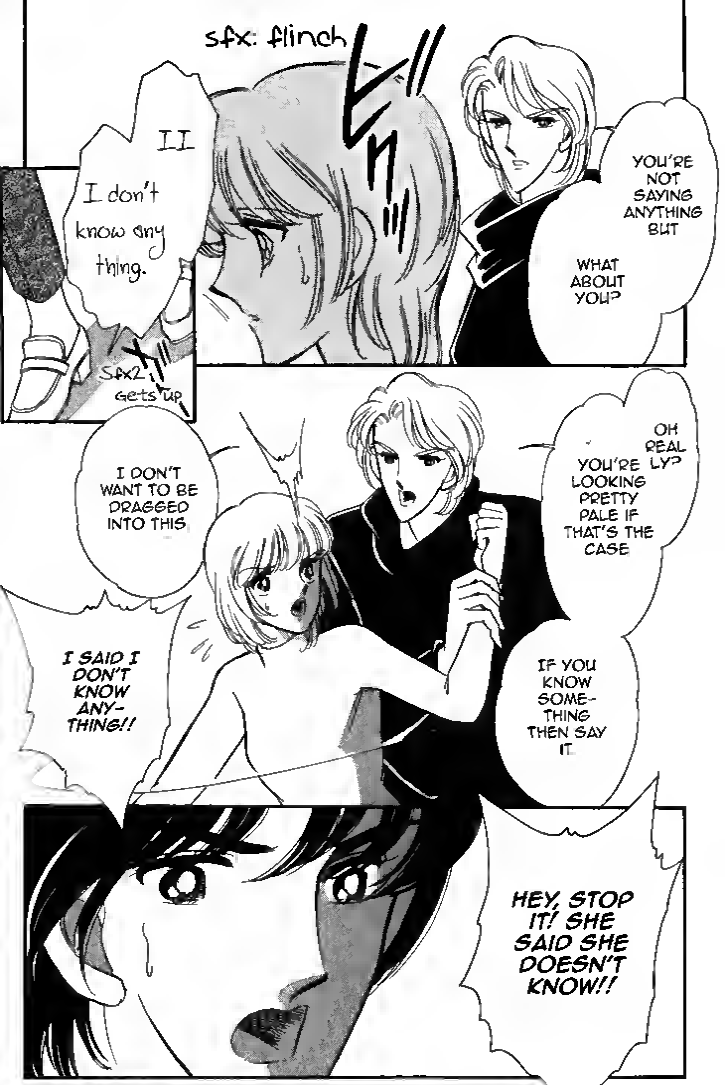
SAXGROWL
KYAAA AAH!!
SAX SLAM
YOU MAY LEAVE
IF YOU GO OUT, THE 10 DOBER-MANS...
I'VE RE-LEASE IN THE YARD WILL DIS-POSE OF YOU
NONE OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THIS PLACE
Grrr
Grrr
Grrr
Grrr

YOU SEE NOW, CORRECT? THIS IS NOT A JOKE!!
AS LONG AS THE TRUE CRIMINAL DOES NOT STEP FORWARD I WILL KILL YOU ONE BY ONE!!
THE TIME LIMIT IS NOON THREE DAYS FROM NOW.
IF THERE IS NO CONFESSION BY THEN, EVERYONE WILL DIE

November 23rd 6 AM
THE PHONE LINES HAVE BEEN CUT
THOSE DOGS ARE IN THE YARD AND WE CAN'T GET TO THE GARAGE
ROOO ROO....
AND SOME TIME DURING DINNER LAST NIGHT, MY CELL PHONE BATTERY WAS TAKEN OUT
AND EVEN IF WE MAKE IT THERE THERE'S NO KEY
THAT OWNER AND HER SERVANT TOOK IT AND HAVE BEEN HOLING UP IN THE ATTIC


I'M SICK OF BEING DRAGGED INTO THIS MESS
THIS IS SO STUPID
IF LIKE THAT WOMAN SAID, THE ONE WHO KILLED HER SON IS HERE, JUST COME FORWARD ALREADY


THAT WAS A MAMMOTH SCHOOL, I DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT EVEN HAPPENED
I'M THE SAME
I WAS ONLY WORKING AT THE PREP SCHOOL FOR A SHORT TIME
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS


sfx: flinch
I don't know anything.
sfx2: gets up
YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING BUT
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH REALLY?
YOU'RE LOOKING PRETTY PALE IF THAT'S THE CASE
I DON'T WANT TO BE DRAGGED INTO THIS
I SAID I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!!
IF YOU KNOW SOME-THING THEN SAY IT
HEY, STOP IT! SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T KNOW!!

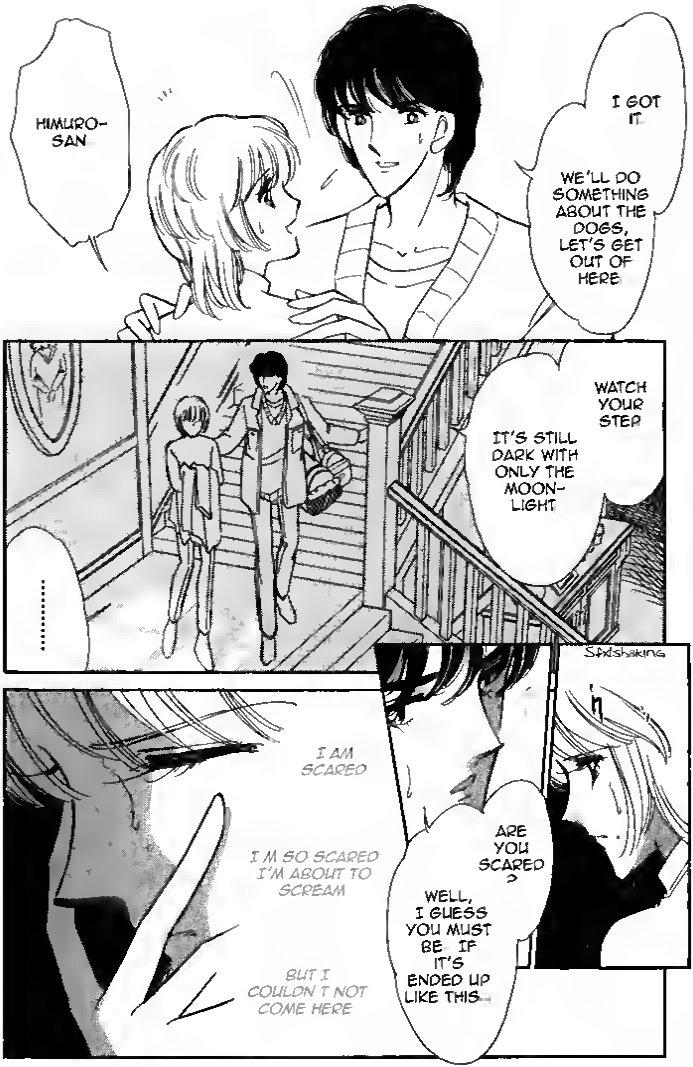
HEY!!
HMM
BEING NICE TO GIRLS HUH
CAN YOU KEEP THAT UP EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE KILLED?
WHAT!?
SAVE
BAM
THANKS FOR EARLIER
UMM, UH..
ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE FEELING WELL IN THIS SITUA-TION
IT'S TAKAAKI HIMURO TAKAAKI
AND YOU'RE NATSUKI KIRIKO-SAN RIGHT?
AH..

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE KILLER IS AMONG US?
...HEY
THE OWNER HERE HAS JUST CONVINCED HERSELF THAT THERE IS
NO WAY!
A MURDERER'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SEE SO EASILY
.....
Hmph
WE WEREN'T FLIRTING. I WAS JUST...
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, FLIRTING AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

I can hear a voice
.....
"I know about it, Kimiko
I know what happened"

HAA HAA HAA
Saki gets up quickly
I DIDN'T MEAN TO FALL ASLEEP
.....
.....

knock
knock
knock
WHO IS IT?
AT THIS TIME
SFX2. OPEN
HEY, LET'S ESCAPE!
PLEASE, ESCAPE WITH ME!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
BUT THE DOGS ARE OUTSIDE
I DON'T WANT TO STAY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ANY-MORE!


HIMURO-SAN...
I GOT IT...
WE'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE DOGS, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
WATCH YOUR STEP
IT'S STILL DARK WITH ONLY THE MOON-LIGHT
.....
Shivering
ARE YOU SCARED?
WELL, I GUESS YOU MUST BE... IF IT'S ENDED UP LIKE THIS...
I AM SCARED
I'M SO SCARED I'M ABOUT TO SCREAM
BUT I COULDN'T NOT COME HERE

AH!?
SFX: BUMP
I...I DON'T KNOW.
SOME-THING BUMPED INTO MY HEAD.....
WHAT HAP-PENED?

KYAAAA
AAH!!
THI...
THIS
IS...

Friendship
Scars
WHAT HAP-PEN ED!?
SAY BAM
.....
November 24th 2:15 AM

SFX creak
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS ALL REALLY GETTING TO YOU
SFX2 startled

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
STOP JOKING AROUND.
AT A TIME LIKE THIS.....!
SO IT'S OKAY FOR THAT GUY TO TOUCH YOU...
BUT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THAT I CAN'T?
STOP.....!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING !!?

SFX Bam
STOP IT!!
SFX2 BLAM
...BAS-TARD!!
ST...STOP IT!
BOTH OF YOU!

BANG!!!
キュウン
PLEASE STOP IT!!
STOP!!

RATHER THAN FIGHTING AMONGST YOURSELVES,
I SUGGEST YOU FESS UP ALREADY
I...I... I HAVEN'T KILLED YOUR SON!!
NO!
I KNOW THAT ONE OF YOU MUST BE THE KILLER!!

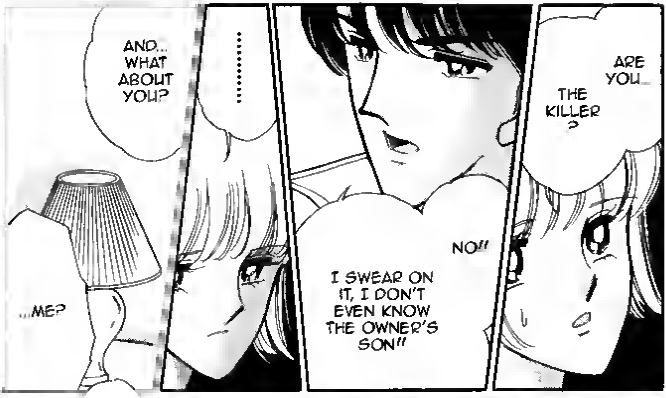
I DON'T NEED EX-CUSES!!
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST LISTEN TO WHAT EACH OF US HAS TO SAY
EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT!!
THE ONLY THING I WANT TO HEAR IS A CON-FES-
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO KILL ALL OF YOU!!
AGH..!!
What!!?
I CAN'T STAY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ANY LONGER!!

WAIT! OUTSIDE, THE DOGS ARE.....!!
UAAARGH!!
SFX:
BAM

DON'T LOOK!!
Sfx! Growl GRR
rustle rustle growl
WELL THEN, RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS
THE TIME LIMIT IS IN ANOTHER 24 HOURS

24 more hours
IF THE CRIMINAL HASN'T STEPPED FORWARD BY TOMORROW
I'LL HAVE THE BOTH OF YOU DIE
November 24th 11:30 AM

S#2. startled
knock
knock
NOW IT'S DOWN TO JUST US TWO.
S#3 opens
AH!
...AREN'T YOU SCARED?
AND YOU? ARE YOU SCARED OF ME?
I COULD BE THE KILLER YOU KNOW.


ARE YOU... THE KILLER?
NO!!
I SWEAR ON IT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE OWNER'S SON"
AND... WHAT ABOUT YOU?
.....
...ME?

.....

I DIDN'T KILL THE OWNER'S SON
BUT I'VE KILLED SOMEONE ELSE

I TOOK MY BEST FRIEND'S BOY-FRIEND
I KNEW HE WAS HER BOYFRIEND, BUT I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM ANYWAY
SO I SLEPT WITH HIM.
WHAT!?
AND THAT NIGHT, SHE DIED.
"I KNOW ABOUT IT. KIRIKO I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED."

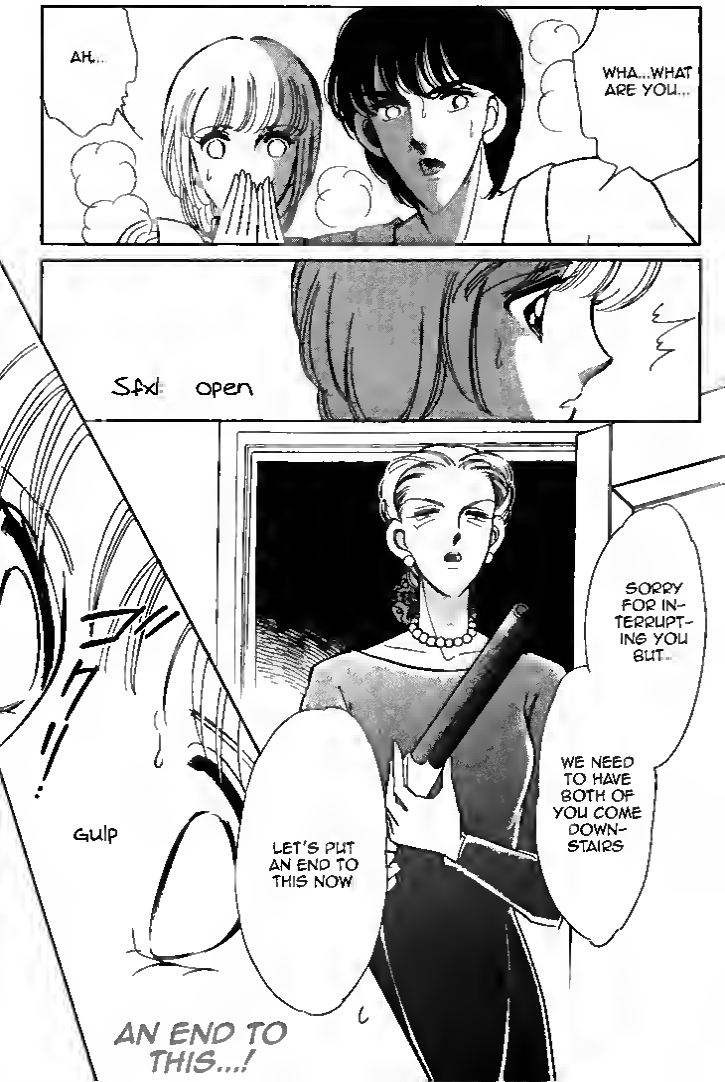
"KIRIKO YOU TRAI-TOR!!"
TRAITOR!!
SHE LEFT A MES-SAGE IN MY VOICE MAIL...
"I KNOW THAT YOU AND HIM ARE SLEEP-ING TO-GETHER, KIRIKO"...
"TRAI-TOR!!"
SHE DIED LEAVING THOSE WORDS!!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HIDING SOMETHING BUT
...SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED
I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!!
I SAW HER REMAINS. SHE WAS ALL COV-ERED IN BLOOD. IT WAS SO HORRIBLE...
YOU CAN'T HELP LIKING SOME-ONE
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
.....
DID SHE COMMIT SUICIDE?

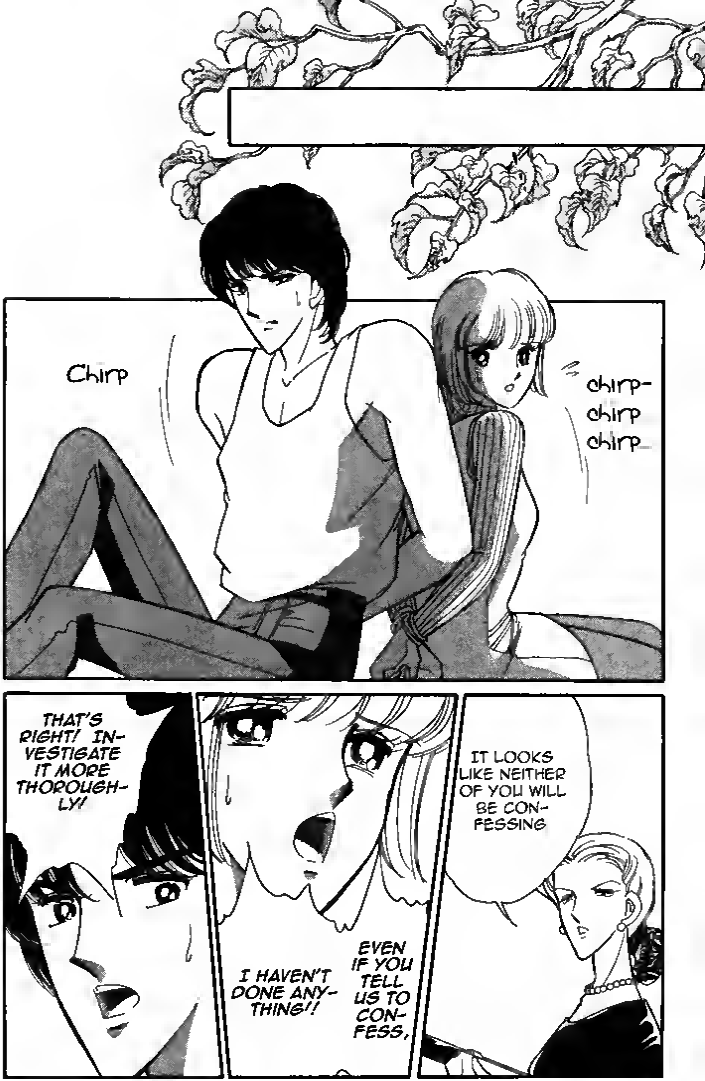
WHAT HAP-PENED WITH THAT MAN ?
THAT WAS THE END OF US.
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD GO OUT AFTER THAT!!

HIMURO -SAN
YOU SAID YOU'RE NOT THE KILLER RIGHT?
IS THAT REALLY TRUE? CAN I REALLY BELIEVE YOU?
OF COURSE

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO PROVE IT...
THEN CAN YOU PROVE IT?
TRY TO PROVE IT
GASP

KYAA
AAAA
H!!
DROP


AH...
WHA...WHAT ARE YOU...
SAX! open
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOU BUT..
WE NEED TO HAVE BOTH OF YOU COME DOWNSTAIRS
LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS NOW
Gulp
AN END TO THIS...!


Chirp
chirp-
chirp
chirp
THAT'S RIGHT! INVESTIGATE IT MORE THOROUGHLY!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!!
EVEN IF YOU TELL US TO CONFESS,
IT LOOKS LIKE NEITHER OF YOU WILL BE CONFESSING

IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING I'LL KILL YOU BOTH HERE
SO I CAN ONLY RELY ON A CONFESSION
THERE'S NO WAY AN AMATEUR SUCH AS MYSELF COULD CHECK OUT YOUR ALIBIS AT THIS POINT
IT TOOK FOUR YEARS JUST TO INVESTIGATE WHO WAS LEFT IN THE PREP SCHOOL ON THE DAY MY SON DIED
WA... WAIT!
WHAT IS THE EXACT DATE THAT YOUR SON DIED!?
AUGUST 24TH OF 4 YEARS AGO
AUGUST 24TH 4 YEARS AGO!!
I REMEMBER IT PERFECTLY!!
I WASN'T AT THE PREP SCHOOL THAT DAY!!

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN PROVEN INNOCENT EITHER
I'LL HAVE IT CHECKED OUT IMMEDIATELY
BUT, IF I FOUND OUT THAT IT'S A LIE, I'LL HAVE YOU DIE RIGHT AWAY
phew
press
I'M SURE OUR NAMES MUST BE RECORDED SOMEWHERE!!
YOU CAN CHECK WITH THE HOTEL!! OR EVEN THE RESTAURANT WE ATE AT!!
I WAS WITH HIM THAT DAY!!
THAT'S THE DAY THAT SHE... THE DAY THAT MY BEST FRIEND DIED!!

NOW THEN, I HOPE YOU WON'T START CONVENIENTLY SPOUTING ALIBIS AS WELL.
WA...WAIT! I ALSO REMEMBER THAT DAY!
OH REALLY?
GO AHEAD AND TALK, I'LL AT LEAST LISTEN TO YOUR EXPLANATION.
SAKI pulling
I...I WAS HERE IN K PLATEAU THAT DAY!!
RANDOM NONSENSE OUT OF THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD WILL BE FOUND OUT RATHER QUICKLY

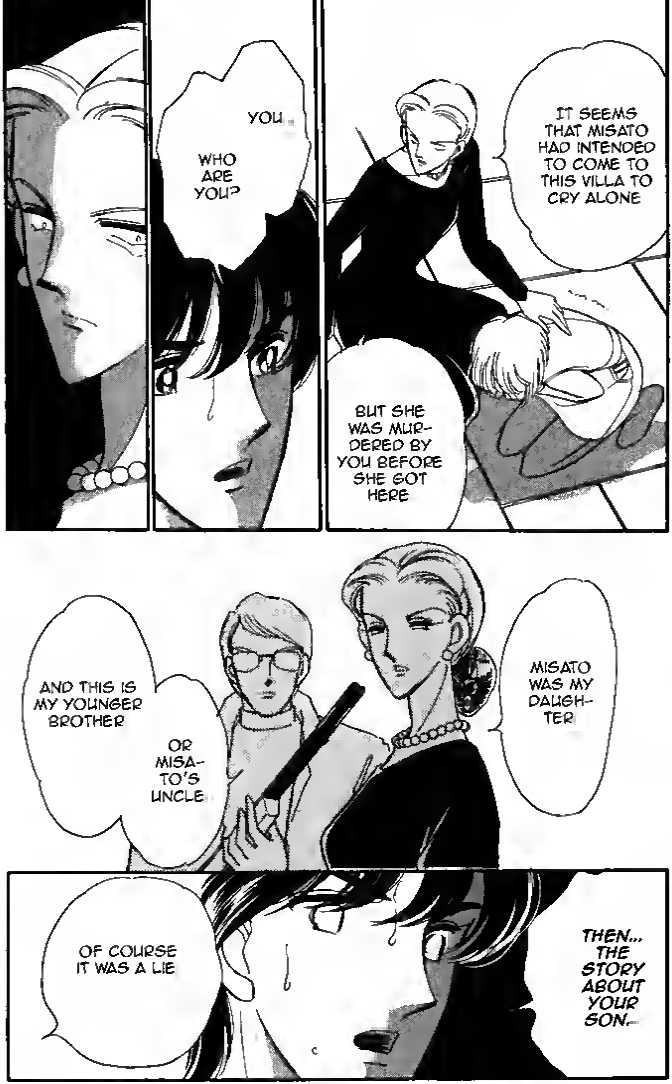
IF YOU WERE GOING TO LIE, YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD A BETTER ONE
IT'S NOT A LIE!
I WAS SUR-PRISED AS WELL WHEN I WAS CALLED OUT HERE!
I CAN PROVE THAT I WAS HERE.. ON THAT DAY!!
THAT DAY...4 YEARS AGO ON AUGUST 4TH,
THERE WAS A MURDER CASE HERE IN K PLATEAU
IN THE NEARBY NATURE PARK A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WAS STABBED TO DEATH
AND SHE WAS DIS-COVERED AS A CORPSE

YOU CAN FIND OUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON THE NEWS
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT ONLY YOU COULD KNOW
WELL, PREPARE YOURSELF
THERE IS SOMETHING THAT ONLY I KNOW!
THAT CASE HASN'T BEEN SOLVED YET/ THE WEAPON HASN'T BEEN FOUND EITHER!
.....
AND WHY DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
...WHY YOU ASK...
I...I WAS...
PULL
THE KNIFE THAT WAS USED AS THE WEAPON IS BURIED UNDER THE WATER FOUNTAIN IN THE PARK!!
STOP!!

THAT NIGHT I KILLED A GIRL ON THIS PLATEAU ...
SO I COULDN'T HAVE KILLED YOUR SON IN TOKYO!!
.....WHY...
IT'S BECAUSE I KILLED THAT GIRL!!

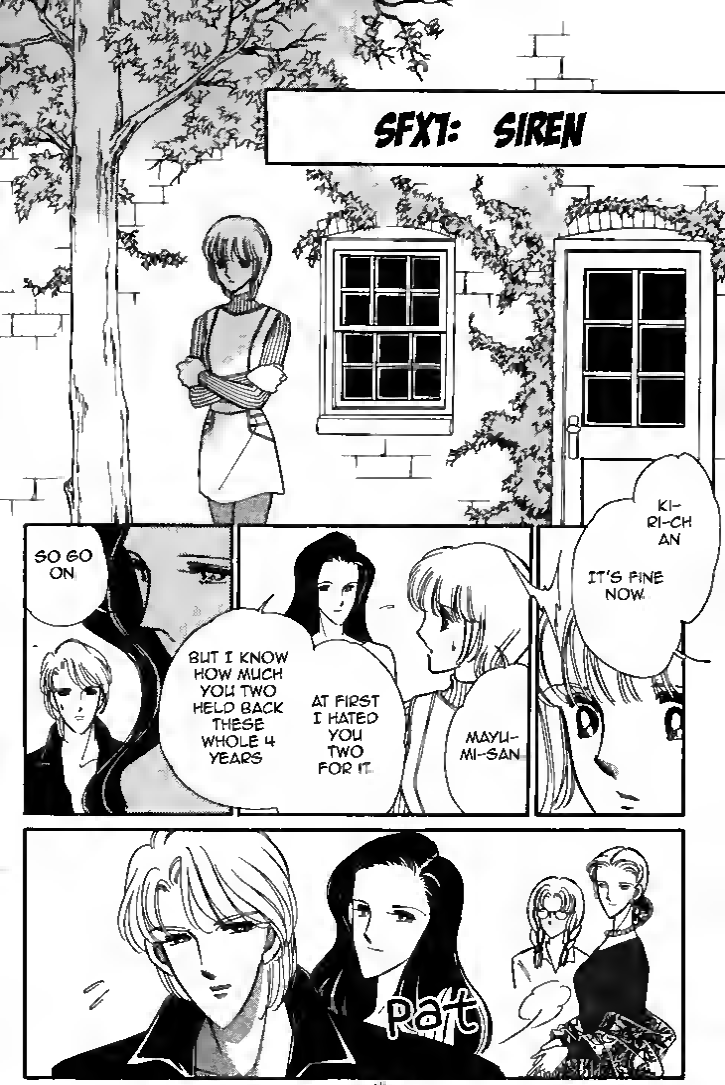
DON'T KILL ME, I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!
DIG OUT THE KNIFE AND CHECK FOR YOURSELF!
YOU CAN EVEN HAVE THE POLICE IDENTIFY THE FINGERPRINTS!!
SO YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KILLED MISATO AFTER ALL
SWIP
.....
!?
loose

RIGHT BEFOR E SHE WAS KILLED BY YOU!!
I'M SURE MISATO THOUGHT THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO DIE EITHER!!
SMACK
MISATO... THE GIRL FROM 4 YEARS AGO...
THAT'S RIGHT! MAT-SUBARA MISATO!! MY BEST FRIEND!!
IT WAS MY FRIEND WHO WAS RAPED AND KILLED BY YOU...
WHILE I WAS SLEEPING WITH HER BOYFRIEND!


IT SEEMS THAT MISATO HAD INTENDED TO COME TO THIS VILLA TO CRY ALONE
BUT SHE WAS MURDERED BY YOU BEFORE SHE GOT HERE
YOU...
WHO ARE YOU?
MISATO WAS MY DAUGHTER
AND THIS IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER
OR MISATO'S UNCLE
THEN... THE STORY ABOUT YOUR SON...
OF COURSE IT WAS A LIE

MISATO WAS MY YOUNGER SISTER AND YUKA'S ELDER
THE KNIFE USED AS THE WEAPON SHOULD BE PROOF ENOUGH, WE'LL HAVE THE POLICE DIG IT UP
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED MY SISTER
EVEN IF I ASKED YOU THAT YOU WOULDN'T ADMIT IT WOULD YOU?
THE POLICE LET YOU GO BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF EVIDENCE
BUT WE WERE SURE THAT YOU WERE THE MURDERER
WHEN MISATO WAS KILLED BY YOU
I WAS SLEEPING WITH KIRIKO!!

A...AROUND THAT TIME, I WAS PISSED OFF BECAUSE I FAILED MY ENTRANCE EXAM
I DIDN'T INTEND TO KILL HER BUT-----!
AND I CAME TO THIS PLATEAU AS A CHANGE OF PACE AND THEN THAT GIRL WAS HERE.
I COULDN'T FORGIVE MYSELF UNLESS I GOT REVENGE ON YOU!!
SHE WAS MAKING SUCH A FUSS.....!


SFX1: SIREN
KI-RI-CH AN
IT'S FINE NOW.
MAYU-MI-SAN
AT FIRST I HATED YOU TWO FOR IT.
BUT I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU TWO HELD BACK THESE WHOLE 4 YEARS
SO GO ON
Raff

Friendship
<72 Hours on the Gallows>
END
SATOSHI.
KIRIKO.
November 25th Noon